

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Belmead (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)
Other names/site number: St. Francis de Sales School for Girls; St. Emma Military Academy; St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College; St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute; DHR ID#: 072-0049
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 5004 Cartersville Road
City or town: Powhatan State: Virginia County: Powhatan
Not For Publication: ☐ N/A Vicinity: ☐ N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this X additional documentation of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

X national X statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B X C ___ D

		<u>2/27/2025</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>		
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.		
Signature of commenting official:		Date
Title :		State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>19</u>	<u>7</u>	buildings
<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	sites
<u>22</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>12</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>64</u>	<u>11</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – Single Dwelling; Secondary Structure; Institutional Housing

EDUCATION - School

RELIGION – Church School

FUNERARY – Cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE – Agricultural outbuilding; Storage; Irrigation Facility

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION - Waterworks

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC – Single Dwelling; Secondary Structure; Camp

FUNERARY - Cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE – Outdoor recreation

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE – Agricultural outbuilding

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19TH CENTURY – Early Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN – High Victorian Gothic

OTHER

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, STONE, STONE – Slate, METAL,
STUCCO, CONCRETE, WOOD, SYNTHETICS – Vinyl

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Belmead was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places at the national level of significance in 1969. An inventory of contributing and non-contributing resources was not part of the nomination form at the time of its original listing. In the descriptive text of the nomination, only the main dwelling, Belmead, was mentioned. The statement of significance, however, acknowledged the property's significance in the areas of Education and Social History and, therefore, the campuses of St. Francis de Sales School for Girls and St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College (later St. Emma Military Academy) are assumed to have been included in the 1969 boundary.

In the 1969 nomination, the nominated area identified on the form encompassed 439 acres, but the topographic map accompanying the nomination does not depict a precise boundary; instead, the map has a large polygon that encompasses considerably more than 439 acres, even crossing the James River into Goochland County. This boundary increase nomination update formally expands Belmead's nominated boundary to include 2,265 acres historically associated with the property. Electronically generated mapping showing the precise increased boundary is attached hereto. As a result of the reconnaissance-level survey conducted on February 1-2, 2024, a total of 75 resources were identified. Among the resources identified, 64 are contributing resources, including 19 buildings, 22 structures, 12 objects, and 11 sites, and 11 are non-contributing,

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including 7 buildings, 1 structure, 1 object, and 2 sites. As part of the current boundary increase, an inventory of all contributing and non-contributing resources is included herein.

The Belmead property encompasses a variety of architectural resources ranging from the high style, architect-designed Belmead Mansion/Main House and St. Francis de Sales School to vernacular agricultural resources and structures associated with the modernization and industrialization of the site. Additionally, the property features four cemeteries and one memorial site, which are associated with the two schools and the property's late nineteenth and twentieth century history. Based on oral tradition and markers on the property, one of the cemeteries on the property is associated with enslaved African Americans. The extant resources reflect the development history of the property, beginning as an antebellum plantation that later transitioned to a twentieth-century working farm, as well as its function as a school, featuring operations that expanded to resemble a self-sufficient community complete with its own water management and irrigation system, electrical plant, street system, heating plant, and refrigeration equipment. The materials and design of the resources found throughout the property further emphasize and reflect the expansive history of the site.

This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior or the National Park Service.

Narrative Description

Setting and Landscape

The 2,265-acre Belmead Estate is located roughly 40 miles west of Richmond, Virginia in Powhatan County just south of the James River. The property includes three major clusters of architectural resources, the Belmead House/St. Emma Group, the Agricultural Complex, and the St. Francis de Sales School Group, surrounded by a vast amount of wooded and agricultural tracts. Deep Creek, which runs through the property and into the James River, separates the two major areas, and parcels, of the property. The main house and the agricultural complex are located west of Deep Creek on parcel 014-1 and are accessed via a long drive branching off Cartersville Road. Accessed from a separate road, St. Emma Drive, off of Cartersville Road, the St. Francis de Sales School Group is located on parcel 014-2 on the east side of Deep Creek. With the exception of clearings associated with groups of resources or agricultural fields, the bulk of the property consists of dense forest.

On the west side of Deep Creek, a long, paved driveway connects the various sections of the site. The long drive continues through wooded areas of the property interspersed with sporadic clearings of either open farmland or a collection of resources. Several smaller roads branch off from the main driveway to connect to the different areas of the site. One of these branches off to the northwest and leads to the side of the property that contains the **St. Edwards Cemetery** (DHR ID # 072-5063/072-0049-0030), the modern camping and shelter area, the **Memorial**

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Circle (DHR ID # 072-0049-0023), and the piggeries (DHR ID # 072-0049-0024, -0025, -0026, -0027) and continues in a rectangle to connect back to the main driveway. The main driveway continues further north and deeper into the property towards the James River leading to the two primary resource clusters on this side which includes the Main House and the primary agricultural complex.

The Belmead Mansion/Main House is situated on a hill overlooking the property and the agricultural complex below, to the east. It is accessed via a long, curved driveway branching off to the west from the main driveway from Cartersville Road. The curved driveway continues under the Porte Cochere on the southwest side of the house and loops back to the main section of the driveway, as well as continues to an expansive asphalt parking lot/former school courtyard at the west corner of the site. The dwelling is primarily surrounded by an expansive grass lawn dotted with several mature trees. On the east and north elevations, concrete paths and steps lead out from the main house to the yard below. A few wooden benches and picnic tables are located in this yard overlooking the lower site. Although modern utilities, such as power lines, are located on the site, it largely retains an open, picturesque landscape setting. Concrete paths connecting the main entrance to the secondary entrances along the southwest elevation of the rear addition are the only other modern additions on the immediate site.

The elevated plain that the Main House is located on is broadly surrounded by woods to the south, west, and northwest. Twelve secondary resources share this prominent hill with the Main House and are located on the overall site surrounding it. These include the **Officer's Club** building (DHR ID # 072-0049-001) and **Garage** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0063) to the north of the house, the **Octagonal Concrete Patio/Garage** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0002) to the southwest on the other side of the driveway, and several smaller secondary resources/ruins found in the wooded areas south of the Octagonal Garage and north of the Officer's Quarters.

The main agricultural complex is located in a clearing down the hill east of the main house. The long drive continues past the Belmead Mansion/Main House and branches off to the east to provide access to the agricultural complex. An enclosed area with two main barns, the **Equipment Barn** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0013) and the **Livestock Barn & Silo** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0014) is accessed just off the main driveway to the south. The **Granary** (DHR ID # 072-5064/072-0049-0032) is located further east on a hill at the edge of the woods overlooking additional fields down the hill to the north. The **Stables** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0016) are located further southeast away from the other agricultural resources in a large open field at the top of a hill that slopes down to the tree line to the south and east. A densely wooded area surrounds the agricultural clearing to the south and east. The **Pratt Truss Bridge** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0017) is located within the tree line across Deep Creek in the woods southeast of the Stables.

On the east side of Deep Creek, the main driveway, which is accessed from Cartersville Road, is a long, paved driveway that continues north into the property providing access to the different areas of the site. The main driveway, St. Emma Drive (Route 600), starts through a wooded area and then continues north through an open section of farmland and leads to a fork in the road with a **St. Francis de Sales RockCastle Sign** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0035). The road that branches

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off to the northwest (Belmead Road/Route 663), continues through a densely wooded area to the edge of Deep Creek and ends at the ruins of the former **1930s concrete bridge** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0018) that once connected the two sides of the property. On the other side, St. Emma Drive continues from the fork to the northeast and leads to the main area of the **St. Francis de Sales School** (DHR ID # 072-0181).

The St. Francis de Sales School and surrounding resources, such as the **Music Building** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0036), **Quonset Hut** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0037), **Power Plant** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0042), etc., are located on the east side of Deep Creek (parcel 014-2) and are situated in an open clearing on a hill overlooking Deep Creek to the north and the James River further north past the wetlands. A densely wooded area surrounds the clearing to the north, east, and west and separates the site of the School from Deep Creek to the north. The School is located at the northernmost portion of the site facing the hill to the north with the secondary resources situated around it to the rear, east, and west. The main driveway, St. Emma Drive, which connects to Cartersville Road, leads straight up to the rear southwest corner of the school and around the west side to the front of the building. The immediate perimeter of the building is filled with mature bushes, shrubs, small trees, and overgrown vegetation. Stone and brick elements from the collapsed bell tower and wall, including a window, lie in the front yard. On the rear side of the building, an open courtyard is located within the U of the building. The grassy courtyard features several bushes, shrubs, and a few small mature trees. A central, stepped path leads directly to the main central entrance along the rear elevation. Other concrete paths provide access to the various entrances along the rear and side elevations. Additionally, an asphalt parking pad, which connects to the driveway on both sides of the building, is located at the southern rear border of the building.

Another open clearing is situated down the hill to the east and southeast of the school. This area, which is interspersed with mature trees, primarily features agricultural resources. An overgrown dirt/grass road branches off St. Emma Drive south of the school and continues northeast down the hill south of the school and through the clearing of agricultural resources and through the woods. While not heavily marked, the treads and clear path through the woods suggest the continuation of this road deeper through the woods to the northeast all the way to the early-to-mid-nineteenth-century **Stone Arched Bridge** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0046). The path continues west at this junction and, although offset several feet to the south, follows the relative path of Deep Creek to the north. A low **Stone Wall** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0044) follows the path of the road on the north side in an otherwise densely wooded area along the hillside north of the school.

Description

With the current nomination, Belmead's nominated area is being increased to include 2,265 acres to include the full acreage of parcels 014-1 and 014-2 and all of the known contributing and non-contributing resources associated with the historic Belmead property. As a result of the reconnaissance-level survey conducted on February 1-2, 2024, a total of 75 resources were identified, of which 64 are contributing resources, which include 19 buildings, 22 structures, 12

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objects, and 11 sites, and 11 non-contributing, which includes 7 buildings, 1 structure, 1 object, and 2 sites.

The Belmead property includes a variety of architectural resources ranging from the high style, architect-designed Belmead Mansion/Main House and St. Francis de Sales School to vernacular agricultural resources and structures associated with the modernization and industrialization of the site. The extant resources reflect the development history of the property. The materials and design of the resources found throughout the property further emphasize and reflect the expansive history of the site. Beginning in 1838, when Philip St. George Cocke purchased the original portion of Belmead, up until about the American Civil War, the plantation harvested tobacco, corn, oats, wheat, and hay.¹ Resources primarily included those that were associated with the production of field crops, such as a gristmill, sawmill, and granary. The **Granary** (DHR ID # 072-5064/072-0049-0032), which was constructed in 1841, is the only agricultural resource associated with this early period that remains extant. This building is rich in architectural value for both the quality of material, design, and vernacular craftsmanship, but also as the oldest surviving, completely unaltered building on site. Associated with the agricultural advances at Belmead, this three-story, T-shaped, timber-frame and stone building features stone walls and a steeply-pitched cross-gable slate roof with wood siding on the south pediment and west gable face. The façade features a pedimented portico entry with four round stone columns situated on a stone base. The main entrance/portico entry includes a wooden step and oversized double-leaf board-and-batten doors with large metal strap hinges. The cross-gable section to the west includes a rectangular, one-story, semi-enclosed space with square stone columns. A two-story lean-to addition abuts the east wall of the main section. Window openings feature stone lintels, and on the north elevation, there is a central recessed stone panel with a lintel engraved with the building date above it. On the interior, the building features wood floors, exposed stone walls, and exposed hand-hewn timbers and wood framing. The interior is largely open and is supported by a massive wooden summer beam, with large T-shaped wooden posts, that span the entire length of the building.

¹ Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 71, no. 2 (June 2012): 147.

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Figure 1: Granary, southwest oblique (CPG 2024)



Figure 2: Granary, Interior, First Floor, View Northeast (CPG 2020)

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Figure 3: (Left) Stone Arched Bridge, (Right) Stone Wall Detail (CPG 2024)

Other extant resources constructed in the 1840s include the Belmead Mansion, as well as the **Stone Arched Bridge** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0046) and the **Stone Wall** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0044) that follows the path along what appears to be an overgrown road. Each was built by enslaved people from stone quarried on the property.² Both are constructed of dry stacked, uncut rubble of varying sizes.

In 1845, Cocke had his mansion, and second residence, constructed on the property.³ Indicative of the Romantic movement in the arts, as well as the Picturesque movement in architecture, the Belmead Mansion was constructed in the Early Gothic Revival Style. Made utilizing materials that could be sourced from the property and that harmonized with the surrounding landscape, the Belmead Mansion was constructed with a stone foundation and stucco-clad brick walls. It has a slate central cross-gable roof with multiple parapets with various geometric forms, as well as battlements in some locations. It has a molded wood cornice and several decorative, clustered Tudor-style chimney stacks. The roof also features an octagonal dome with slate walls and a glass dome above the main staircase in the cross-gable of the porte-cochere. Windows primarily include leaded diamond-pane, wood casement windows with wood sills. The three-story bell tower, which is located on the northeast elevation opposite the cross-gable of the porte-cochere, is square with corner piers, a flat roof, and battlements. The porte-cochere, which is located on the southwestern side of the building, is two stories with a steeply-pitched slate roof and a parapet on the southwest side. The primary entrance is located under the porte-cochere and is accessed by stone and a low stone porch inlaid with a decorative tile floor. Double-leaf doors, flanked by two single-leaf doors, each with a Tudor-style arch, serve as the primary entrance. The tall double-leaf doors have a diamond-shaped wood and glass pattern with three lower wood panels. The single-leaf door to the right of the double-leaf doors has the same design, while the door on the left is just a simple wood-paneled door.

² Daniel Bluestone, A.J. Davis's Belmead, 162.

³ His first residence, more modest residence, was constructed on the east side of the property (parcel 014-2) and is no longer extant. The approximate location is recorded in V-CRIS.

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Figure 4: Belmead Mansion, Facade (CPG, 2020)



Figure 5: Belmead Mansion, Northeast Elevation (CPG, 2020)

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Figure 6: Belmead Mansion Roof Detail (CPG 2020)

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Figure 8: Belmead Mansion, Curved Staircase, View from 2nd Floor (CPG 2020)

The interior of the original section opens to a large entrance hall that runs northeast/southwest through to the bell tower at the opposite end. A curved main staircase is located just off the main hall by the entrance. Large family rooms, such as the drawing room, library dining room, and kitchen are located off of a long cross hallway running southeast/northwest. Bedrooms flank the upper vestibule and cross hallway on the second floor. A secondary staircase is located at the west corner of the original section. The interior primarily has wood

floors, although some rooms have carpet, and retains most of its original trim despite the conversion to use as a school. Decorative marble mantels remain, along with Tudor-style arches framing doors and cased openings. Many rooms have coffered ceilings, and most of the interior doors are painted, arched, wood-paneled doors. The main hallway, on both the first and second floors, leads straight into the two-story addition. The first floor of the addition is divided into multiple rooms, while the second floor consists of one open room. A stark contrast to the original section of the building, the addition features carpet floors, dark pine paneling along the walls, and an acoustical tile ceiling. On the exterior, the addition is a simpler version of the original section of the building.



Figure 7: Belmead Mansion, Curved Staircase (CPG 2020)



Figure 9: (Left) Historic Drawing Room, View North (Right) Historic Office, View Southeast (CPG 2024)

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Figure 10: Slave Dwellings at Belmead, 1848-1849 – no longer extant (Source: The Met)

Although no longer extant, slave dwellings, which were constructed in 1848, and the overseer's residence (c.1850), were some of the next major additions to the property during this period. Designed by Alexander Jackson Davis as well, these quarters were of board-and-batten construction and largely designed to blend and harmonize with the picturesque landscape.⁴ Other known extant resources on the property dating prior to the Civil War include the **Slave Cemetery** (DHR ID # 072-5062/072-0049-0029), the **Main Entrance Gate Markers** (DHR ID # 072-5034/072-0049-0060), and the **Secondary Entrance Gate Markers** (DHR ID 072-5033/072-0049-0059). Although the farm continued to be in operation into the late 1880s, there are no

other known extant resources from this period.



Figure 11: St. Francis de Sales School, Facade, Chapel Entrance (CPG 2024)

⁴ Daniel Bluestone, A.J. Davis's Belmead, 162.

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Figure 12: St. Francis de Sales School, Chapel Interior, Rear Balcony and Entrance (CPG 2024)

Following a decline in the farm and debt accrued by George Cocke's son, John Bowdoin Cocke, the land was sold to Katharine Drexel and her sister Louise Drexel Morrell, and Louise's husband, Edward Morrell, in 1890.⁵ In 1891, Katharine Drexel founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and by 1895 the **St. Francis de Sales School Building** (DHR ID # 072-0181/072-0049-0058) was constructed on the eastern portion of the Belmead property (parcel 014-2). This High-Victorian Gothic school building has a stone foundation and brick walls with buttresses and stone beltcourses. Some areas of the building also have stone quoins. Six gable dormers also line the east side of the

chapel roof. With the exception of the flat-roofed section, the building has a molded cast stone and corbeled brick cornice along with highly decorative corbeled brick chimneys featuring multiple design elements, including a cross. The most decorative section of the building, the chapel facade is located at the east end of the north elevation and features an ogee-shaped parapet flanked by hexagonal engaged columns and spires. It has a stone and brick Gothic entrance portal, which is supported by concrete columns with decorative capitals and a copper spire topped with a cross, and a rose window, with stone tracery, immediately above the entrance. The entrance is flanked by lancet windows with quatrefoil tracery and stone arches. A stone alcove, with a statue of St. Francis, is located in the center of the third-floor level. On the interior, the Chapel features an open nave with a vestibule and rear balcony at the north end and the altar at the front, or south end, with three gothic-arched alcoves. The pews have been removed, portions of the ceiling support beams are missing, and portions of the wood floor have collapsed. Although missing or deteriorated in several locations, particularly along the east wall, the chapel features plaster walls and is lined with wood paneled wainscoting.



Figure 13: St. Francis de Sales, Chapel Interior, Front Alcove/Altar (CPG 2024)

⁵ Daniel Bluestone, A.J. Davis's Belmead, 164.

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The remainder of the façade is characterized by a once prominent Gothic bell tower, which partially collapsed along with a portion of the façade in 2010. The east and west elevations of the chapel include bands of stained-glass lancet windows, with stone quatrefoil tracery and stone arches, separated by buttressing. The remainder of the building primarily includes simpler segmental arched, wood windows, with segmental brick arches and stone sills. Others include single and paired rectangular windows with stone sills and headers. The rear (south elevation) of the building is characterized by its U-shape, created by the wings and additions to the primary building, which is lined with porches. A three-story wood porch, with exposed rafters, wooden balusters, and square wood columns with brackets at the top, wraps around the east and a portion of the south elevation of the northwest corner of the inside of the U-shape. On the south elevation, the second-floor level of the porch is enclosed with windows. Along the south elevation, the first-floor level of the porch features multiple brick arches and columns. The first-floor level of this porch continues along the rest of the south elevation and wraps around the west



Figure 14: St. Francis de Sales School, First Floor Interior

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elevation on the interior of the U-shape. The interior, which is in extremely poor condition, has wood floors and plaster walls with beadboard wainscoting. In some rooms, the plaster has been covered with wallpaper. Some rooms also feature carpet floors or vinyl asbestos tile. What appears to be mostly beadboard ceilings, with plaster in some locations, has been hidden by modern, dropped acoustical tile ceilings.

Other extant resources from the turn of the century are largely concentrated around the school. These include the **St. Francis Power Plant** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0042), the **Outdoor Fireplace/Fire Pit** (DHR ID #072-0049-0045) north of the school, and the **Spring House** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0049). While utilitarian in use, both the St. Francis Power Plant and Spring House share similar characteristics to both each other and the School Building and reflect common design elements of the late Victorian/turn of the century period, as well as the high-style elements of the School Building. Each has a stone foundation and water table, common bond brick walls, a hipped slate-shingle roof with exposed rafters, and double-hung, wood-sash windows. The Spring House, in particular, is much grander than a typical spring house found throughout southern Virginia and reflects the wealth of the estate. On the interior, it has wood floors, evidence of finished walls, and a finished bead-board ceiling. Additionally, the windows have decorative molded wood sills and framing on the interior.



Figure 15: (Top Left) St. Francis Power Plant Facade, (Top Right) Rear Elevation of Power Plant, (Bottom Left) SE Oblique/Rear of Spring House, (Bottom Right) Interior of Spring House

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Three cemeteries, the **Sister's Cemetery** (DHR ID 072-5066/072-0049-0062), the **Children's Cemetery** (DHR ID #072-5065/072-0049-0061), and **St. Edwards Cemetery** (DHR ID # 072-5063/072-0049-0030) also date to this period. St. Edward's Cemetery (c.1895) is located on the western parcel (014-1) in a small clearing in the woods northwest of the Belmead Mansion. The unbound, but marked, cemetery only takes up a small portion of the lot, which likely once contained the St. Edwards Chapel. It is accessed via a dirt road that connects to the Belmead Mansion as well as other parts of the agricultural site. Located in the woods southwest of the School's clearing and St. Emma Drive, the other two cemeteries are largely hidden and are not very clearly marked. The Sister's Cemetery is enclosed with a short wooden post-and-rail fence, while the Children's Cemetery is not enclosed. Based on headstones, each likely dates to c.1900.

The early twentieth century saw the expansion of utilitarian structures and modern agricultural resources. These included the **Deep Creek Dam Structure** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0028), the **Dam Across Licking Creek** (DHR ID #072-0049-0050), whatever stood on the remaining **Concrete Foundation** south of the Power Plant (DHR ID #072-0049-0052), and the **Pratt Truss Bridge** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0017) across Deep Creek. Consistent with the technology of the time, these resources are primarily cast-in-place concrete structures with course crushed stone as the main aggregate, with steel elements, such as the bridge truss, dam spillway, and gears. At this same time (c.1912), the modern agricultural complex down the hill east of the Belmead Mansion and near the existing Granary also began to develop. A slight shift from the early focus on field crops, the resources reflect a mixed farming operation with diverse resources to support those operations, including an **Equipment Barn** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0013), the **Livestock Barn & Silo** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0014), and the **Stables** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0016). Other supporting structures in the area include the **U-shaped wall** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0067) and the **Stone Gate Piers** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0015) at the driveway leading to the Stables. These resources are a combination of masonry and wood-frame construction and utilize concrete block, brick, and cast-in-place concrete. Roof materials include standing-seam metal, corrugated metal, and slate. Although some wood window frames remain in the Livestock Barn & Silo, these agricultural resources primarily feature steel windows and board-and-batten doors. On the east side of Deep Creek, the campus of St. Francis de Sales School expanded with the addition of the **Music Building** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0036) in the 1920s. This simple wood-



Figure 16: (Left) Livestock Barn & Silo, (Middle) Equipment Barn, (Right) Stables, (CPG 2020)

frame building contrasts with the high-style architecture of the school building, the Power Plant, and the Spring House in scale, materials, and general characteristics. While retaining a concrete

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block foundation and the feel of a one-story, early twentieth-century frame building, it has an asphalt-shingle hipped roof, the original siding, which was likely wood, has been replaced with vinyl siding, and the windows have been replaced with six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl-sash windows.

Throughout the 1920s and 1930s, agricultural resources also expanded and automobile-related resources were introduced. On the St. Francis de Sales side of the property, a corn crib site and a garage were added in the lower field southeast of the School Building. The corn crib site is a raised site that features four resources, which include the wood-frame **Corn Crib** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0048), a concrete, double-walled **Circular Pit** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0070), a **Concrete Trough** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0071), and **Shed Ruins** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0073), bound by a **Stone Retaining Wall** (DRH ID # 072-0049-0072). Located a short distance northwest of the corn crib site, the **One-Story Brick Garage** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0051) has brick walls, a standing-seam metal, a side-gable roof, and three garage bays separated by brick piers. Evident of the early-twentieth-century shifts in building materials, it has a poured concrete foundation but maintains board-and-batten garage doors and wooden windows. Additionally, an **Octagonal Concrete Patio/Garage** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0002) was added south of the Belmead Mansion on the west side of the property during this period. Constructed fully of early twentieth-century concrete, a concrete driveway, flanked by concrete retaining walls, leads directly from the Belmead Mansion driveway into the garage. Although they are in poor condition, it has large double-leaf board-and-batten garage doors with a twelve-light transom, divided into four sections, above. On top, there is a concrete patio with a decorative concrete balustrade and tapered concrete lamp posts at each corner. One side of the patio does not have a railing and remains open for access. The **Concrete Bridge Across Deep Creek** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0018) was also constructed during this time directly connecting the two sides of the property via accessible main roads. It later collapsed.

Although many of the larger resources associated with the St. Emma campus near the Belmead Mansion were demolished in 1974 following the school's closure, one of the highest concentrations of extant resources dates to the pre-World War II and early World War II years as the St. Emma campus expanded their agricultural and industrial activities to create a self-sufficient community. These include an **Old Pump House** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0003), **Stone Ditch #1** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0004), **Stone Wall** (DHR ID # 072-00149-0005), a **Concrete Irrigation Channel** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0053), a **Concrete Water Containment Facility** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0054), **Freestanding Stone Steps** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0007), and **Stone Ditch #2** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0008). These resources are largely constructed of a combination of early and mid-twentieth-century technology combining early usage of stone and modern concrete. The resources constructed of stone, such as the Stone Wall, Stone Ditch #1 and #2, and the Freestanding Stone Steps are constructed of small and mid-sized stone, or pebbles, held together with mortar as opposed to just being dry stacked like the nineteenth-century resources. The Old Pump House, Concrete Irrigation Channel, and Concrete Water Containment Facility utilize a combination of poured concrete with stone aggregate and mid-twentieth-century concrete block and steel. The **Immaculate Heart of Mary Statue** (DHR ID # 072-0049-010) and **Semi-Circular Stone Retaining Wall** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0064), which were constructed

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during the same period, feature a combination of uncoursed dry-stacked stone and coursed stones held together with mortar. Consistent with the resource types and technology of the period, the **Ice Dam** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0056) was likely constructed during the same period despite current signage. It features early cast concrete with stone used as a main aggregate and features concrete and stone buttressing with iron bolts fastened around the spillway.



Figure 17: Octagonal Concrete Garage/Patio, (Top Left) Top - View Southwest, (Top Right) Interior, (Bottom Left) Interior - view of garage doors and transom, (Bottom Right) View of the Retaining Wall/Stairs up to the Belmead Mansion

During the 1950s and 1960s additional school facilities, utilities, and expanded agricultural resources were constructed or installed on the property. Remaining resources from the St. Emma campus include a 1960s **Concrete Pump House** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0006), a c.1957 **Basketball Court** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0069), and an **Officer's Club** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0001) building that was constructed sometime between 1950 and 1960. Originally constructed of exposed concrete block, this one-story Officer's Club building underwent a major renovation in c.2022 and has been altered so heavily that the original scale and form are no longer recognizable. It is now one-and-a-half times the size and has a new roof form, new cladding

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materials, and it has also been completely redone on the interior. Although the exact construction date is unclear, agricultural activities consistent with the self-sufficiency of the school continued to expand during this period as evidenced by the four **A-frame Piggeries** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0024, -0025, 0026, and -0027) located in the woods on the west side of the property that were present by at least 1958.

On the east side of the property, additional resources were added to support the operations of the St. Francis School. These include a c.1950 **Brick Shed/Utilities Building** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0039), a corrugated metal **Quonset Hut** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0037) with steel windows, which served as the gymnasium, and a **Basketball Court** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0075). Although only **Wood Shed Remnants** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0047) are extant today, another shed was added in the lower agricultural field around c.1962. While the purpose is unknown, a pre-1959 **Complex Concrete Foundation** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0043) is also located in the woods north of the St. Francis de Sales School.

In the mid-1960s, the **Main Entrance Sign** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0033) was added at the entrance to the St. Emma/Belmead Mansion side (west) of the property, and the **St. Francis de Sales RockCastle Sign** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0035) was added on the St. Francis side (east) of the property at the intersection of St. Emma Drive (Route 600) and Belmead Road (Route 663). Constructed of the same design, these parged concrete monument signs are trapezoidal with stepped sidewalks capped with beveled concrete capitals.

Only a handful of resources were constructed outside of the period of significance. In c.1982, the **St. Francis Entrance Sign** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0034) was added at the intersection of Cartersville Road. Although it is very similar in appearance to the two existing entry signs, it does not appear on aerial maps prior to 1982. There are three resources constructed in the early 2000s, which include a **Memorial Circle/Prayer Garden** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0023), a **Modern Picnic Shelter** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0022), and a **Shed** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0068) all located in the same area near St. Edward's Cemetery on the west side of the property southwest of the Belmead Mansion/Main House. Memorializing the no longer extant resources of the overall Belmead site, as well as the mission of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, the Memorial Circle features elements from razed buildings, some of which have been compiled to form monument-style features or statues, bound by a stone curb on the edge of the woods near the former agricultural area. Three resources, which include the **Modern Stables** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0019), the **Garage** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0063) associated with the renovated Officer's Quarters, and the **Modern Camping Site** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0020), were constructed in the last five years primarily feature synthetic materials including vinyl siding, engineered wood siding, faux vinyl shake, and vinyl windows and hollow-core fiberglass doors.

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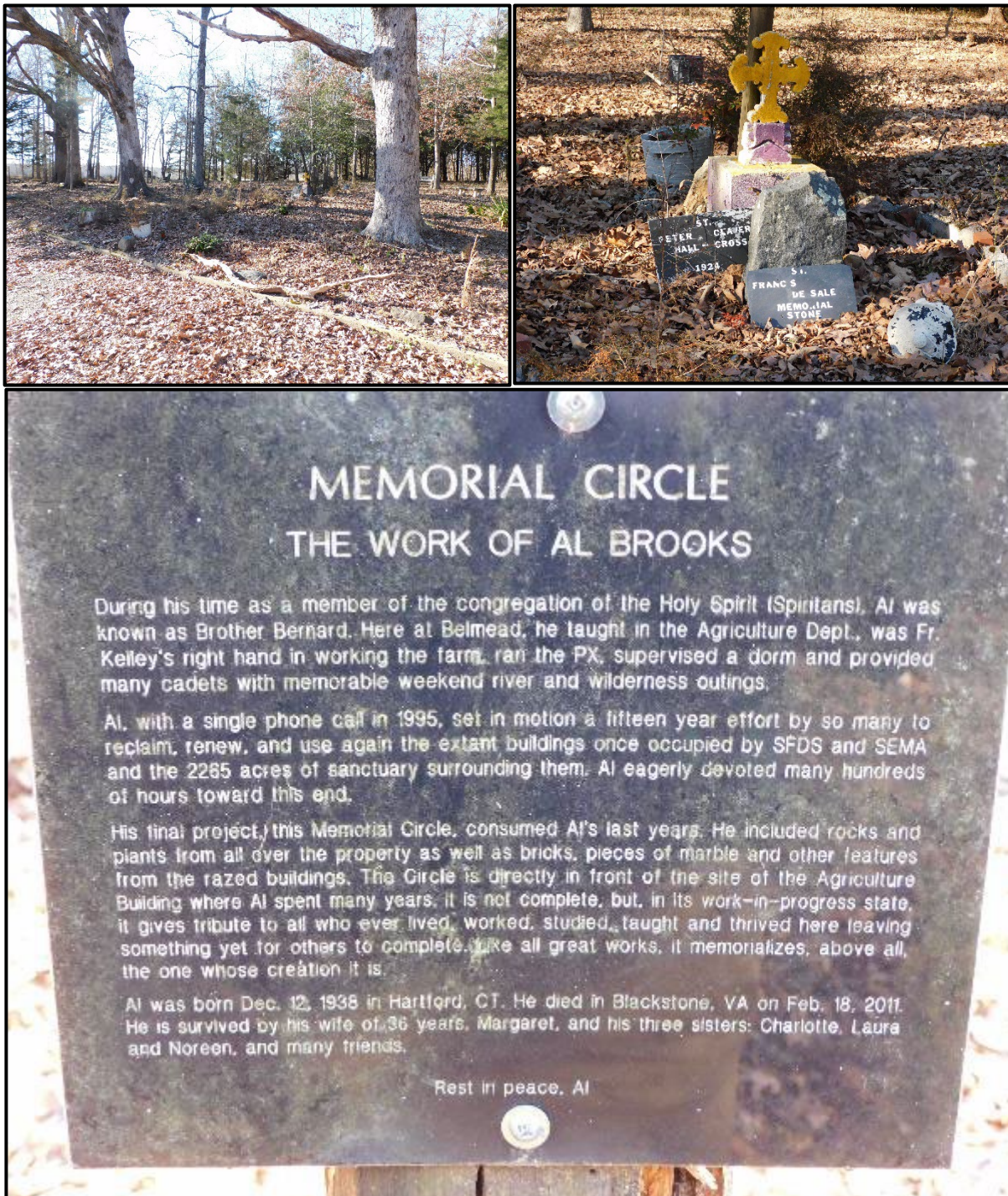


Figure 18: Memorial Circle/Prayer Garden: (Top Left) Overall View, (Top Right) Central Monument, (Bottom) Garden Sign (CPG 2024)

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Integrity Analysis

The present-day area associated with the historic Belmead property, as illustrated in this nomination to increase Belmead's boundary, retains a high degree of architectural and contextual integrity as an overall property. The Belmead Boundary Increase, which consists of the two Powhatan County tax parcel numbers 014-1 and 014-2, contains all of the known physical area historically associated with the Belmead property during its period of significance and, as a whole, retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. The site and the extant resources remain in their original locations on the property. Therefore, Belmead retains integrity of location. Although several of the secondary architectural resources have been lost and changes have occurred over time to extant resources, the relationships among the extant buildings, structures, sites, and objects across the entire property are unchanged and the striking views of the rural landscape remain largely undisturbed. Additionally, despite the loss of a fair number of buildings associated with the St. Emma campus after its closure, there are still a significant number of intact resources associated with the property's period and areas of significance to convey the operations of the school, the technological advancements of the mid-twentieth century when the school and its farming operations expanded, and the self-sufficient provision of water, electricity, steam-powered heat, and agricultural and industrial productions on the rural campus. There are also a considerable number of resources intact from each development period that demonstrate the development of the property through its various phases of development and expansion. Furthermore, the landscape, the relationship of the resources throughout the landscape, particularly in clusters associated with the different uses of the property, and the relationship of resources to open farmland and expansive wooded areas remains largely unchanged. The number of resources intact throughout the various development periods of the site reflects the long and complex history of Belmead, providing a window into its history. Therefore, the Belmead Boundary Increase area retains integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

Furthermore, the architectural resources themselves are in large part marvelously preserved. Although some are in poor condition, the resources retain the physical elements associated with their original design, including the general architectural features, form, and stylized elements. The extant resources are also excellent examples of craftsmanship during each period, especially the 19th century craftsmanship that is likely attributable to skilled enslaved laborers, based on records that Philip St. George Cocke maintained. Evolving construction technology is also reflected in the resources, such as the transition from hand-hewn saw marks on manually finished lumber to circular-sawn lumber processed at the onsite mill, and the almost parallel change from manually cut stone to machine-made brick and formed concrete elements. With the exception of only a few mid-20th-century resources, such as the Music Building, the Officer's Quarters, and the two cottages, the resources largely retain their original historic materials. Very few modern synthetic replacement materials exist on the property at all. Such materials are limited to the aforementioned handful of resources, which comprise fewer than ten of the property's total 75 resources, that were constructed since 2000 and fall well outside the period of significance. Therefore, the property retains integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. The cemeteries on the property that have been identified to date have not been disturbed and,

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although vegetation has become overgrown on more than one occasion, their integrity appears to be fully intact. Cemeteries for enslaved people rarely have written documentation, but information for some of the interments at Belmead has been found, solidifying the sites' integrity of association.

Despite the poor condition and, in some cases, severe deterioration of architectural resources, such as the St. Francis de Sales School building, these resources retain their original materials, convey their historic design and craftsmanship, and are located in their original location and in the historic setting and position within the overall landscape. Additionally, they have had little to no alterations. Structural failure due to a combination of vacancy, deferred maintenance, storm damage, and vandalism have been substantial threats to these resources in recent decades, but the limited redevelopment of the extensive acreage has preserved the extant former plantation resources, both school campuses, and the farming and industrial operations areas in situ. Therefore, as a whole, the expanded Belmead property retains integrity of design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

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Belmead Boundary Increase Inventory

The attached inventory is the result of a reconnaissance-level survey of 75 resources conducted in February 2024. Each entry in the inventory identifies the primary resource, the resource type (building, site, structure, or object), number of stories, architectural style, approximate construction date, and the contributing or non-contributing status. The architectural description is included. Resources on the Belmead property are counted as contributing if they were constructed during the district's period of significance (1840-1972), are associated with one or more of the district's areas of significance, and retain integrity. Alterations to contributing resources were evaluated based on their overall impact on the character-defining features of the resource. The inventoried resources are keyed to the attached 200' scale Sketch Map, and are identified by the last four digits of the DHR ID.

Cartersville Road – Parcel 014-1

Main House Area:

Belmead Mansion/Main House

072-0049

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 3, Style: Gothic Revival, Ca 1845**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This three-story Early Gothic Revival Style house consists of a main three-story section, which has a porte-cochere and a three-story bell tower, and a two-story, square rear addition. The building has a stone foundation, stucco-clad brick walls, and a slate central cross-gable roof with multiple parapets with various geometric forms, as well as battlements in some locations. It has a molded wood cornice and several decorative, clustered Tudor-style chimney stacks. The roof also features an octagonal dome with slate walls and a glass dome above the main staircase in the cross-gable of the porte-cochere. Windows primarily include leaded diamond-pane, wood casement windows with wood sills. The majority of the windows are paired or grouped and many also have molded hoods. Several of the windows, particularly at the second and third-floor level also feature lancet tracery designs within their overall rectangular frame. Two three-part bay windows, with stone bases, leaded diamond-pane glass with wooden tracery, and transom windows, flank the bell tower on the northeast elevation. The southwest elevation also features a rectangular bay window with a stone base and leaded diamond-pane glass. An oriel window, with leaded diamond-pane windows with lancet tracery designs, a wood base, and a hipped roof, is also located on the southwest elevation.

The three-story bell tower, which is located on the northeast elevation opposite the cross-gable of the porte-cochere, is square with corner piers, a flat roof, and battlements. A concrete belt course separates each floor. The northeast elevation of the bell tower features what appears to be a modern double-leaf entry with double-leaf wood and glass door with a separated semi-circular transom window. The first-floor windows of the bell tower also appear to be modern and consist of three-part single-light windows with a separated semi-circular transom window with simulated divided

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lights. Decorative Tudor arches are located above the first-floor level windows and door. The second and third-floor levels of the bell tower both feature leaded diamond-pane casement windows with lancet tracery. The windows, as well as the corner piers, are more decorative at the third-floor level.

The porte-cochere, which is located on the southwestern side of the building, is two stories with a steeply-pitched slate roof and a parapet on the southwest side. Formerly serving as carriage access, the first-floor level has a large opening and a pedestrian opening on both the southeast and northwest sides, as well as an additional large opening on the southwest side. Each opening is framed with concrete Tudor arches and separated by large piers. A large room is located above the porte-cochere at the second-floor level. The southwest wall features an oriel window at the second-floor level and a diamond-shaped window at the third-floor level. Each window features leaded diamond-pane glass and wood tracery.

The primary entrance is located under the porte-cochere and is accessed by stone and a low stone porch inlaid with a decorative tile floor. Double-leaf doors, flanked by two single-leaf doors, each with a Tudor-style arch, serve as the primary entrance. The tall double-leaf doors have a diamond-shaped wood and glass pattern with three lower wood panels. The single-leaf door to the right of the double-leaf doors has the same design, while the door on the left is a just a simple wood-paneled door. Each of the entrance doors has a screened door with a screened transom window.

The interior of the original section opens to a large entrance hall that runs northeast/southwest through to the bell tower at the opposite end. A curved main staircase is located just off the main hall by the entrance. Large family rooms, such as the drawing room, library dining room, and kitchen are located off of a long cross hallway running southeast/northwest. Bedrooms flank the upper vestibule and cross hallway on the second floor. A secondary staircase is located at the west corner of the original section. The interior primarily has wood floors, although some rooms have carpet, and retains most of its original trim despite the conversion to use as a school. Decorative marble mantels remain, along with Tudor-style arches framing doors and cased openings. Many rooms have coffered ceilings, and most of the interior doors are painted, arched, wood-paneled doors. The main hallways, on both the first and second floor, lead straight into the two-story addition. The first floor of the addition is divided into multiple rooms, while the second floor consists of one open room. A stark contrast to the original section of the building, the addition features carpet floors, dark pine paneling along the walls, and an acoustical tile ceiling. On the exterior, the addition is a simpler version of the original section of the building.

Officer's Club

072-0049-0001

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Clubhouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1958**

Non-contributing

Total: 1

This one-story Officer's Club underwent a major renovation in c.2022. Now used as a hunting retreat, it has been altered so heavily that the original scale and form is no longer recognizable. The former small, one-story, one-bay rectangular concrete block building is now one-and-a-half times the size and has a new roof form, new cladding materials, and has also been completely redone on the interior. The original rectangular form has been expanded to the northeast, under a

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new roof form, to line up with the former projecting cross-gable addition. Additionally, it has been expanded to the northwest with a one-story, two-bay rectangular addition set back from the plane of the original wall. Today, this three-bay, masonry concrete-block building has a brick veneer-clad concrete-block foundation and a complex, asphalt-shingle, cross-gable roof with wide overhanging eaves and flat-stock trim. It has vertical vinyl siding mimicking board-and-batten siding with faux vinyl shingles in each gable end. The primary entrance, which is located on the southwest elevation of the set back northwest addition, features a modern single-leaf Craftsman-style door with a simple surround. Another modern, six-panel, single-leaf door provides access on the northwest elevation at that same corner. Double-leaf glass doors provide access to the deck at the north corner. Windows include a mix of fixed and double-hung six-over-six vinyl-sash with wide vinyl surrounds. A modern version of a bay window has been created on the façade/southwest elevation. A wrap-around wooden deck, with a wood-slat railing and square wooden posts, is located on the north corner. It is accessed from the front via a ramp along the southeast elevation, and a wooden staircase provides access from the yard on that same elevation.

Garage

072-0049-0063

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Garage (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 2022**

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

This modern one-story, two-bay, rectangular garage was added in c.2022 in conjunction with the renovation to the Officer's Club. It has a front-gable asphalt-shingle roof and features the same design features with a brick foundation, vertical vinyl siding mimicking board-and-batten siding, and faux vinyl shingles in each gable end. A single leaf pedestrian opening provides access on the façade and southeast elevation. A large sectional garage door is the focal point of the façade. Windows are limited to the two side elevations and are six-over-six, double-hung, vinyl-sash.

Octagonal Concrete Patio/Garage

072-0049-0002

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Garage (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1930**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This octagonal building has concrete walls, a concrete floor, and a concrete beam ceiling. Most likely a garage, it has a single, large, double-leaf opening on the façade, or southeast elevation. Although they are in poor condition, it has large double-leaf board-and-batten garage doors with a twelve-light transom, divided into four sections, above. On top, there is a concrete patio with a decorative concrete balustrade and tapered concrete lamp posts at each corner. One side of the patio does not have a railing and remains open for access.

Pump House

072-0049-0003

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Pump House (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This small, short, square, approximately 5'x5', one-bay structure is constructed of poured concrete with visible stone in some locations. The façade has a single cased opening which is only

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approximately 2' tall. The roof is similar to a rounded conical roof, including the flared edges, but with only four sides.

Stone Ditch #1

072-0049-0004

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This ditch consists of a stone-based trough/ditch with low stone sidewalls that are level with the surrounding ground. The stacked stones of the sidewalls appear to be held together with some sort of aggregate, or mortar.

Stone Wall

072-0049-0005

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Wall (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This stone wall is approximately 4' tall and is a general oval shape with curves similar to a modern-day pool. The wall encloses what is now a grassy, leaf-filled pit below. The wall is coursed and held together with mortar, as opposed to just being stacked. There is a slight dip at the top edge of the wall at the southeastern corner.

Concrete Pump House

072-0049-0006

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Pump House (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1960**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This small, short, square, approximately 7'x7', one-bay structure is constructed of poured concrete and is situated into the hillside. The façade has a single cased opening which is only approximately 2' tall. The roof is flat concrete.

Freestanding Stone Steps

072-0049-0007

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total:* 1

These three, shallow freestanding stone steps, which were likely attached to a now demolished building, are made of pebble-sized uncoursed stones held together with mortar.

Stone Ditch #2

072-0049-0008

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total:* 1

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This second stone ditch consists of a stone-based trough/ditch with low stone sidewalls that are level with the surrounding ground. The stacked stones of the sidewalls appear to be held together with some sort of aggregate, or mortar. Unlike the first stone ditch, this one also has a drain at the top. The small drain consists of a hole in the ground with a metal grate over it with a flat stone surround made of the same pebble-sized stone and mortar.

Foundation Ruins

072-0049-0009

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Foundation (Site), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This multi-room foundation ruin is constructed of an early version of concrete that appears to have been cast around pebble-sized stones. The remainder of the outside of the foundation walls is smooth concrete with visible lines showing the boards/cast markings. Where the foundation wall has cracked or broken, the stone is visible.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Statue

072-0049-0010

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This statue is a marble Immaculate Heart of Mary on top of a stone base. This tapered, square stone base has rough-cut coursed stones held together with mortar.

Semi-Circular Stone Retaining Wall

072-0049-0064

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This semi-circular stone retaining wall frames the statue in front of it. The stone wall is constructed of large rough-cut, uncoursed stones dry stacked in an irregular course against the hillside.

Cottages of the Main Driveway:

Jefferson Cottage

072-0049-0011

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Secondary Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1910**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This two-story, two-bay, square, wood-frame cottage has a concrete foundation, stucco walls, and a side-gable asphalt-shingle roof with flat stock trim and boxed eaves. It has one interior brick chimney. Windows primarily include historic steel casement windows, of varying sizes, with concrete sills. However, two first-floor windows on the facade have been replaced with modern vinyl-sash, six-over-six, double-hung windows. A one-story, one-bay, enclosed six-course common-bond brick entry porch is located at the south end of the facade. The enclosed porch,

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which is accessed via a central concrete stoop with brick knee walls, has a front-gable asphalt shingle roof, flat stock trim, and boxed eaves. The entrance includes a single-leaf wood-panel door with upper glazing. A concrete lintel and solder course of bricks is located above the entrance. Sometime within the last four years, the exterior stucco walls were painted, and the small windows on the north and south elevations of the enclosed entry porch were infilled with brick. A one-story, two-bay, side porch is located on the north elevation. This porch, which is accessed via central concrete steps with concrete block knee walls, has a concrete block base and a hipped asphalt shingle roof. It also as three Craftsman-style columns with a square brick pier base and a tapered wood column on the upper half. On the south side, a one-story, extremely- narrow garage, with stucco walls, a side-gable asphalt-shingle roof, and a modern sectional garage door, adjoins the southeast corner of the building. A single-leaf hollow-core, six-panel door is located on the east elevation of the garage. On the rear, or east elevation, and adjoining the northeast corner of the garage, is a one-story covered entry porch. Accessed by concrete block steps, with a wood post railing, the wood porch is supported by a concrete block pier foundation. It has two square, unpainted wood posts, and an unpainted picket railing next to the steps on the east edge of the porch. A single-leaf wood door with two lower panels and nine lights of upper glazing, along with a screen door, provide access to the kitchen. A below-grade concrete block basement access, with concrete block steps and retaining walls, is also located on the rear elevation just north of the porch. The basement door is a single-leaf board-and-batten door. A contemporary wood deck, with exposed joists and disconnected square posts, is attached to the one-story covered entry porch along the rear elevation and wraps around to meet the side porch on the north elevation. The deck currently blocks access to the basement.

Washington Cottage

072-0049-0012

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Secondary Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1910**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This two-story, two-bay, square, wood-frame cottage has a concrete foundation, stucco walls, and a front-gable asphalt-shingle roof with flat stock trim and boxed eaves. It has one interior brick chimney. Windows include historic steel casement windows, of varying sizes, with concrete sills. A one-story, three-bay porch with a concrete block base a hipped asphalt shingle roof is located on the facade. The porch, which is accessed via central concrete steps, has four Craftsman-style columns with a square brick pier base and a tapered wood column on the upper half. The facade, or west elevation, also features a single-leaf vertical board door with a tiny four-light vision panel. A one-story, extremely- narrow garage, with stucco walls, a side-gable asphalt-shingle roof, and a modern sectional garage door, adjoins the southeast corner of the building. A single-leaf open pedestrian doorway is located on the east elevation of the garage. On the rear, or east elevation, and adjoining the northeast corner of the garage, is a one-story open wood porch/deck. Installed sometime in the last four years, this modern wooden deck is supported by square posts and is open with a wooden railing. It is accessed by wooden steps on the south side that partially block the pedestrian garage entrance. A single-leaf door provided access to the kitchen. A below-grade concrete block basement access, with concrete block steps and retaining walls, is also located on the rear elevation just north of the porch.

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Main Agricultural Complex:

Equipment Barn

072-0049-0013

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Barn (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1912**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This one-story, three-bay barn has two sections consisting of the main, rectangular equipment section and a separate stall gallery along the north side. The main section has a concrete foundation, parged concrete walls, and a side-gabled slate-shingle roof with exposed rafter tails. There is one interior slope brick chimney at the southeast end. Windows, which are limited to the southeast elevation, include two nine-light metal windows and one louvered opening. The interior has three main, open sections accessed through four large loading door openings, each featuring decorative concrete accents at the top of opening. A portion of a vertical-board wood sliding door and sliding track remains on the easternmost opening, and a sliding track is also present on the central opening. Separate, but adjoining the north side of the main section, the stall gallery has concrete block walls, and a standing-seam metal shed roof with a wide overhang and exposed rafters on the north side. A total of twelve single-leaf, board-and-batten Dutch doors, with strap hinges and three-light transom windows, line the north elevation providing access to a total of only five main rooms.

Metal Shed

072-0049-0065

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Shed, Vehicle/Equipment (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total: 1*

A secondary structure, similar to a carport, is located at the southwest corner of the site. This arched metal structure is supported by metal posts and has an arched corrugated metal roof and upper walls as a continuation of the roof. The northeast and southwest elevations remain open along with the lower portion of the side walls on the northwest and southeast elevations.

Gas Pumps

072-0049-0066

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Other (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total: 1*

These old Amoco pumps are in poor condition with rusted steel exteriors. Each has a single pump hose and is situated on a concrete base.

Livestock Barn & Silo

072-0049-0014

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Barn (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1912**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This one-story, three-bay, rectangular, frame, livestock barn has a concrete foundation and seven-course common-bond brick walls with parging on the lower half. The corrugated metal, front-gable

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roof has an elongated, ridge-line roof vent/louvered clerestory and exposed rafters. The east and west elevations are lined with windows. The windows are largely six-light wood windows, with a wood sill and brick header lintel. Some retain their glass, but many panes are broken or missing. There are multiple single-leaf pedestrian entrances into the building, as well as two larger, central sliding door openings. The single-leaf entrances primarily include board-and-batten doors with concrete lintels, although some doors are missing and others have been replaced with plywood. There are two on the west elevation and three on the east elevation. There is also one located on each side of the large central, sliding door on the south elevation, while there is only one to the east of the sliding door on the north elevation. Each large sliding door entrance, on both the north and south elevation, features a concrete lintel above the opening with a metal sliding track and portion of board-and-batten wood, sliding door. A concrete stave silo is attached at the southeast corner of the building via a small wooden wall. It is constructed of small, stacked precast concrete sections with ridged grooves that lock them together. It is open at the top.

Wall

072-0049-0067

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Wall (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1912**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Unidentified ruins are located on the site southeast of the Livestock Barn. These ruins include two U-shaped wall sections, an upper section and a lower section, of differing lengths. The longer upper section extends the rest of the length of the site to the gravel driveway to the southeast that leads to the stable. The lower section is less than half the length and forms an enclosure, which may have served as some sort of trough or storage bin, at the northwest end. The walls are constructed of a mix of stone with poured concrete. The walls have been parged and iron pegs are visible on the top of the wall in some locations.

Stone Gate Piers

072-0049-0015

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Gateposts/Entry (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1912**

Contributing *Total:* 1

These large, square, stone piers flank the driveway leading to the stable and serve as the entrance gate. Roughly 3' or 4' square, these piers have rough-cut stones arranged in a regular course with what appears to be lime-based mortar. Each pier is capped with a flat concrete or stone sheet.

Stables

072-0049-0016

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Stable (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1912**

Contributing *Total:* 1

The Stables include a one-story, multi-bay, square building with four stall-gallery walls surrounding an open, central, courtyard. This building has a concrete foundation, stucco walls, a standing-seam metal hipped roof, and one brick interior chimney. The primary entrance, which includes two large double-leaf board-and-batten doors, is located in the center bay of the northwest elevation. Otherwise, multiple single-leaf stall entrances line each elevation. Most include board-

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and-batten Dutch stall doors with large strap hinges, but some remain open with only a half-height metal gate over the entrance. Each stall entrance contains a transom window with either glass or lattice. On the interior side of the stables, a concrete floor and concrete drain channel surround the fenced, grassy center. On this side, the roof has wide projecting eaves, with exposed rafters, that cover most of the concrete floor area and shelter the stall entrances. The interior stall entrances also have board-and-batten Dutch stall doors.

Granary

072-5064

Other DHR Id#: 072-0049-0032

Primary Resource: **Granary (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, 1841**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This three- story, T-shaped, timber-frame and stone building is situated on a sloping hillside and features stone walls and a steeply-pitched cross-gable slate roof with wood siding on the south pediment and west gable face. The facade features a pedimented portico entry with four round stone columns situated on a stone base. The main entrance/portico entry includes a wooden step and extremely large double-leaf board-and-batten doors with large metal strap hinges. The cross-gable section to the west includes a rectangular, one-story, semi-enclosed space with square stone columns. Some of the spaces between the columns are open, while others feature vertical board walls/coverings. The space has a stone foundation, a dirt floor, and exposed ceiling rafters. The north elevation of the main rectangular section is entirely stone and features a central door opening at the basement level with a stone lintel. At the second-floor level, there are two rectangular window openings with stone lintels, as well as a central recessed stone panel with a lintel engraved with the building date above it. At the third-floor/attic level, there are two semi-circular window openings with stone arches flanking a larger boarded up window opening with a large stone lintel. A two-story stone lean-to addition, with a slate shed roof, abuts the east wall of the main section. This addition has a slate roof and exposed rafters. The north elevation of this lean-to features a large loading door opening with a wooden lintel. A stone arch, indicating the presence of a former arched opening, is located just above it. Two open, wood-framed, windows are located on the east elevation of the lean-to. Two additional door openings, one on the first-floor level and one on the second, are located on the east elevation of the main section just north of the lean-to addition.

Deep Creek:

Pratt Truss Bridge

072-0049-0017

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Bridge (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1912**

Contributing *Total:* 1

The Pratt Truss bridge has a dry-stacked square cut, regular coursed, stone base on each side of Deep Creek that appears to date to an earlier period than the remainder of the bridge. A concrete platform is located on the top of each stone base. The body of the bridge is steel with a Queen Post truss. The floor of the bridge, which was likely wood, is missing. An early version of a metal pipe railing, which is attached at each end with a steel post, runs the length of the bridge on the inside of the truss on each side.

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Concrete Bridge Across Deep Creek 072-0049-0018

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Bridge (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, 1930**

Contributing *Total: 1*

While the body of the bridge across Deep Creek is no longer extant, remnants of the bridge remain on both sides of Deep Creek. On the west side (parcel 014-1), the side railings framing the entrance to the bridge are intact. These concrete railings are painted with a classical concrete balustrade. Each end has a coffered concrete pier, and the end closest to the main driveway features a round concrete finial. The date 1930 is inscribed on the south railing. A wooden post-and-rail fence blocks access to Deep Creek where the bridge floor used to be located. Although less fanned out, the same railings exist on each side of the what used to be the bridge on the east side of Deep Creek (parcel 014-2). However, these railings are unpainted.

Deep Creek Dam Structure 072-0049-0028

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Dam (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1910**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This early dam structure has a concrete retaining wall with a central spillway. A metal gear, for manually opening and closing the dam, is located on the wall near the spillway. A side channel spillway, or overflow container, is located on the west bank. It has concrete walls and a secondary metal gear structure at the top.

Northwest Loop off Main Driveway:

St. Edwards Cemetery 072-5063

Other DHR Id#: 072-0049-0030

Primary Resource: **Cemetery (Site), Style: No discernible style, Ca 1895**

Contributing *Total: 1*

The St. Edwards Cemetery features a variety of headstone types ranging from at least as early as 1895 to 2021. This includes simple wooden crosses, older, simple arched granite headstones, and modern granite headstones with a base with flower stands. An unmarked large concrete cross is located on a hexagonal concrete base is located in the center of the cemetery. Although there is no border around the perimeter of the site, the entrance to the cemetery is marked with a gated arched concrete structure. The concrete gate features a lancet arch situated on square columns. Topped with a cross-shaped finial, the lancet arch reads "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

Modern Stables 072-0049-0019

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Stable (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 2021**

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

This one-story, nine-bay modern stables building is wood-framed with a concrete foundation and a saltbox metal, standing-seam roof. Faux vinyl wood shakes are located at each end of the roof. Constructed of open wood framing, the building features nine stalls. The roof is supported by

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square wooden posts and the sides of the building, as well as the stalls, have half-wall height wood-slate railings.

Modern Camping Site

072-0049-0020

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Campground (Site), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 2022**

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

This camping site features approximately twelve individual camping sites. Each has a wooden picnic table, an electrical hookup, and a water pump.

Water Tower

072-0049-0021

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Water Tank/Tower (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1930**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This rusted water tower is constructed of steel with a steel tank, steel support columns, a central steel riser pipe, and a steel tank ladder.

Modern Picnic Shelter

072-0049-0022

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Park/Camp Shelter (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 2011**

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

This one-story, rectangular picnic shelter has a concrete foundation and a front gable roof with boxed eaves. Faux vinyl shakes are located in the gable end. Three quarters of the shelter is open and supported by square wood columns with an exposed wood-frame ceiling. The enclosed portion of the shelter has vinyl vertical board walls, a pass-through window, and a single-leaf modern six-panel fiberglass door.

Shed

072-0049-0068

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Shed (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 2012**

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

This one-story, rectangular modern, wood-frame shed has a front gable asphalt-shingle roof. The foundation is not visible, but it has a combination of vertical-board walls and vertical metal siding. A one-story, one-bay, full-width porch, which is located under an extension of the main roof, is located on the façade. It is supported by square posts and has wood decking. Windows are one-over-one vinyl sash with flat stock trim. It has a single-leaf, modern fiberglass door with two lower panels and nine lights of upper glazing.

Basketball Court

072-0049-0069

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Basketball Court (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1957**

Contributing *Total: 1*

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This overgrown basketball court features an asphalt court partially enclosed with a tall chain-link fence.

Memorial Circle

072-0049-0023

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Site), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 2009**

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

This memorial circle features rocks, plants, bricks, pieces of marble, and other features from razed buildings on the overall Belmead site. A few of the materials have been compiled to form monument-style features or statues. The area is bound by a stone curb and features two signs, each on a wooden post, explaining the origin of the site.

A-Frame Piggery #1

072-0049-0024

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Animal Shelter/Kennel (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1950**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This one-story, A-frame Piggery is wood-framed and is situated directly on the ground. It has vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof. A small wooden door, with strap hinges, is located on the center of the façade. A diamond-shaped wooden vent is located above the door at the peak of the gable. The rear elevation of the piggery remains open.

A-Frame Piggery #2

072-0049-0025

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Animal Shelter/Kennel (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1950**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This one-story, A-frame Piggery is wood-framed and is situated directly on the ground. It has vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof. A small wooden door, with strap hinges, is located on the center of the façade. A diamond-shaped wooden vent is located above the door at the peak of the gable. The rear elevation of the piggery remains open.

A-Frame Piggery #3

072-0049-0026

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Animal Shelter/Kennel (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1950**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This one-story, A-frame Piggery is wood-framed and is situated directly on the ground. It has vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof. A small wooden door, with strap hinges, is located on the center of the façade. A diamond-shaped wooden vent is located above the door at the peak of the gable. The rear elevation of the piggery remains open.

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A-Frame Piggery #4

072-0049-0027

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Animal Shelter/Kennel (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1950**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This one-story, A-frame Piggery is wood-framed and is situated directly on the ground. It has vertical board siding and a corrugated metal roof. A small wooden door, with strap hinges, is located on the center of the façade. A diamond-shaped wooden vent is located above the door at the peak of the gable. The rear elevation of the piggery remains open.

Slave Cemetery

072-5062

Other DHR Id#: 072-0049-0029

Primary Resource: **Cemetery (Site), Style: Other, Ca 1853**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This cemetery, which is noted as the Slave Cemetery in existing documentation and cemetery signage, features a variety of headstone types ranging from at least as early as 1853 to 1929. This includes simple wooden crosses, older, short, rectangular stones (often next to a wooden cross), and simple arched granite headstones. Although there is no border around the perimeter of the site, the entrance to the cemetery, which is several yards away near the road, is marked with an iron cross and a modern sign that says "Historic Cemetery."

In the Woods:

Concrete Irrigation Channel

072-0049-0053

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Reservoir (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This concrete irrigation channel is set below-grade and has concrete sidewalls and a concrete base. A steel I-beam is located at one end supporting the structure where it turns. Pipes run along the floor or stick out of the wall in a couple of locations.

Concrete Water Containment Facility

072-0049-0054

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Reservoir (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This Water Containment Facility is rectangular with a combination of tall poured concrete and concrete block walls. It is further supported by a steel I-beam at one end. Multiple iron pipes connect from the wall to a larger pipe that runs perpendicular to it from one wall to the other side. It also features a vertical pipe in the center on one side.

Ice Dam

072-0049-0056

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Dam (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

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Contributing Total: 1

This long dam is constructed of stone combined with an early cast concrete. It has concrete and stone buttressing and a central opening, like a spillway, at the bottom of the wall. Iron bolts are fastened to a strip that it located on each side of the opening on the rear side.

Man-Made Drainage Ditch

072-0049-0057

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Site), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing Total: 1

This man-made drainage ditch is a shallow ditch with a single metal pipe running under the earth bridge. The ditch is flanked by an extremely shallow bank lined with trees.

Entrance:

Main Entrance Sign

072-0049-0033

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Sign (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1966**

Contributing Total: 1

This parged concrete monument sign is trapezoidal with stepped sidewalls capped with beveled concrete capitals. There is a rectangular indenture to hold signage, but it is currently blank. Beneath that, a metal sign fixed to the wall reads "Let all the earth cry out to God with Joy!".

Secondary Entrance Gate Markers 072-5033

Other DHR Id#: 072-0049-0059

Primary Resource: **Monument/Marker (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, 1857**

Contributing Total: 1

Taller than the lower gate markers, these Upper West Entrance Concrete Gate Markers are approximately five-and-a-half feet tall. They are made of natural stone and are beveled to a point at the top. One of the markers is inscribed with an "18" and the other one is inscribed with "57". An iron pintle is located on one stone, while the other has a hole, each of which likely mark where a former gate was attached.

Main Entrance Gate Markers 072-5034

Other DHR Id#: 072-0049-0060

Primary Resource: **Monument/Marker (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, 1857**

Contributing Total: 1

These East Concrete Entrance Gate Markers are approximately four-and-a-half feet tall. They are made of natural stone and are beveled to a point at the top. One of the markers is inscribed with an "18" and the other one is inscribed with "57". An iron pintle is located on one stone, while the other has a hole, each of which likely mark where a former gate was attached.

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St. Emma Drive – Parcel 014-2

Entrance:

St. Francis Entrance Sign

072-0049-0034

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Sign (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1982**

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

This parged concrete monument sign is trapezoidal with stepped sidewalls capped with flat concrete capitals. There is a rectangular indenture to hold signage, but it is currently blank. Above that, a metal sign fixed to the wall reads “Belmead 1 Mile” and has an arrow pointing west.

St. Francis de Sales RockCastle Sign

072-0049-0035

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Sign (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1966**

Contributing *Total: 1*

February 2024: This parged concrete block monument sign is trapezoidal with stepped sidewalls capped with beveled concrete capitals. There is a rectangular indenture to hold signage, and it features a metal sign that says “St. Francis de Sales ROCKCASTLE”.

St. Francis de Sales Cluster:

St. Francis de Sales School Building

072-0181

Other DHR Id#: 072-0049-0058

Primary Resource: **School (Building), Stories 4, Style: Gothic Revival, 1895**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This large, U-shaped, High Victorian Gothic Revival building has a stone foundation and brick walls with buttresses and stone beltcourses. Some areas of the building also have stone quoins. The steeply-pitched roof is primarily hipped, but also features a front gable and flat section. Six gable dormers also line the east side of the chapel roof. With the exception of the flat-roofed section, the building has a molded cast stone and corbeled brick cornice along with highly decorative corbeled brick chimneys featuring multiple design elements, including a cross. The facade, or north elevation, faces Deep Creek and the James River, opposite the driveway leading to the school complex. The most decorative section of the building, the chapel facade is located at the east end of the north elevation and features an ogee-shaped parapet flanked by hexagonal engaged columns and spires. Stone steps lead to the stone and brick Gothic entrance portal, which is supported by concrete columns with decorative capitals and a copper spire topped with a cross. A rose window, with stone tracery, is located immediately above the entrance. The entrance is flanked by lancet windows with quatrefoil tracery and stone arches. A stone alcove, with a statue of St. Francis, is located in the center of the third-floor level. On the interior, the Chapel features an open nave with a vestibule and rear balcony at the north end and the altar at the front, or south end, with three gothic-arched alcoves. The pews have been removed, portions of the ceiling support beams are missing, and portions of the wood floor have collapsed. Although missing or deteriorated in several locations, particularly along the east wall, the chapel features plaster walls

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and is lined with wood paneled wainscoting.

The remainder of the facade is characterized by a once prominent Gothic bell tower. In 2010, a portion of the bell tower collapsed along with a portion of the facade. The north and west walls of the second-floor-level of the bell tower remain, and the facade has been stabilized and boarded up. The remaining brick bell tower walls feature buttressing, bands of tiered brick corbeling along the upper cornice, and molded stone gables between the first and second-floor levels. Open ogee-shaped archways are located at the first-floor level and are framed by stone along the top. Horizontally-oriented two-over-two, semi-circular arched, wood windows, framed by a band of brick soldiers with a stone sill, are located at the second-floor level. Circular windows, also framed by band of brick soldiers, remain at the third-floor level. Stone and brick elements from the collapsed bell tower and wall, including a window, lie in the front yard. The remainder of the facade includes numerous bands of window bays separated by buttressing. These windows include single segmental-arched wood windows with segmental brick arches and stone sills, as well as paired semi-circular arched wood windows framed by a decorative brick arch. Stone tracery, with quatrefoil and trefoil designs, unifies the paired windows beneath the brick arches.

The east and west elevations of the chapel include bands of stained-glass lancet windows, with stone quatrefoil tracery and stone arches, separated by buttressing. The remainder of the building primarily includes simpler segmental arched, wood windows, with segmental brick arches and stone sills. Others include single and paired rectangular windows with stone sills and headers. In addition to the chapel entrance along the façade, the building has additional decorative primary entrances. The main rear entrance, which is centered along the south elevation, includes a large single-leaf wood-paneled door with a single light of upper glazing. The ornate door surround includes sidelights with two lights and a lower wood panel, as well as a three-part, segmental-arched, multi-light transom. A segmental brick arch is also located above the opening. Another notable entry includes the rear entrance to the chapel, which is located on the rear side of the building at the southwest corner of the chapel. This entry includes double-leaf wood-paneled doors with a gothic-arched, stained-glass transom window that includes quatrefoil tracery. Secondary entrance doors primarily consist of double-leaf wood and metal doors with three lights of upper glazing along with three or six-light transoms.

The rear (south elevation) of the building is characterized by its U-shape, created by the wings and additions to the primary building, which is lined with porches. A three-story wood porch, with exposed rafters, wooden balusters, and square wood columns with brackets at the top, wraps around the east and a portion of the south elevation of the northwest corner of the inside of the U-shape. On the south elevation, the second-floor level of the porch is enclosed with windows. Along the south elevation, the first-floor level of the porch features multiple brick arches and columns. The first-floor level of this porch continues along the rest of the south elevation and wraps around the west elevation on the interior of the U-shape. The basement-level of the porch, which wraps around all three rear/interior of the U-shape elevations, is supported by brick columns and features decorative wood-lattice screening. A small enclosed wood and glass porch, with a shed roof, is located at the second-floor level of the west elevation at the northeast corner of the interior of the U-shape. In addition to the bell tower collapse and damage to the facade, the building has sustained other damage from water and neglect. One corner of the building, at the southeast corner of the

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interior U-shape, has collapsed and remains open and exposed to the elements. Portions of the rear porch floor have also collapsed, particularly at the second-floor level. Additionally, ivy covers the building in many locations contributing to moisture infiltration and structural instability.

Music Building

072-0049-0036

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Classroom Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1920**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This one-story, seven-bay, wood-frame, rectangular building has a concrete block foundation, vinyl siding, and an asphalt-shingle hipped roof with exposed rafter tails. The facade has one central, single-leaf, hollow-core metal door with two lower panels and nine lights of upper glazing. Additionally, there are three, symmetrically-placed, six-over-six, double-hung vinyl windows flanking the primary entrance. Other windows include smaller six-over-six, double-hung vinyl windows. A secondary entrance, which has a single-leaf, six-panel, hollow-core metal door is accessed via a raised wooden stoop located at the northwest corner of the building.

Quonset Hut

072-0049-0037

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Quonset Hut (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1958**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This large, six-bay, Quonset hut has corrugated metal siding and groups of four-light steel windows with steel sills. There are multiple single-leaf, metal slab, pedestrian entrances on the east and north elevations. Modern vertical standing-seam metal panels on the south elevation cover what appears to have once been a loading door opening. Several large roof vents line the ridge of the arched roof.

Basketball Court

072-0049-0075

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Basketball Court (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1958**

Contributing *Total:* 1

February 2024: This overgrown asphalt basketball court is located just west of the Quonset Hut. Remnants of a fence remain along the north and west sides, but no other elements of the court remain.

Wood Frame Pump House

072-0049-0038

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Pump House (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This small, relatively 2' x 4', one-story, two-bay Pump House has a brick foundation and wood louvered siding. It has a hipped slate-shingle roof with metal ridges at each corner.

Brick Shed Utilities Building

072-0049-0039

Other DHR Id#:

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Primary Resource: **Shed (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1950**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This Brick Shed Utilities Building is a one-story, one-bay, masonry, rectangular building. It has a concrete foundation, stretcher-bond brick walls, and a flat roof with metal coping. A double-leaf vertical board door provides access on the south end of the west elevation.

Brick Foundation

072-0049-0040

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Foundation (Site), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1930**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This covered Brick Foundation is approximately 5' x 5' square and is only three brick layers tall. The foundation is common-bond brick and is covered by a wood-slat platform. There is an opening, or a space, in the center of the foundation.

Brick Vault

072-0049-0041

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Foundation (Site), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1930**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This covered Brick Vault has a pit but it is not visible from above. A wood-slat covering obscures the vault from view.

St. Francis Power Plant

072-0049-0042

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Power Plant (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, 1899**

Contributing *Total:* 1

The power plant is situated against a hill and consists of three components. The main building is two- stories with the second-story level and main entrance level with the school, while the first floor is built up against the hillside. This six-bay, rectangular building has a square-cut, coursed, stone foundation and water table, eight-course common-bond brick walls, and a slate hipped roof with exposed rafters. It also has a decorative corbeled, mouse-tooth/jigsaw brick cornice. The facade has a central entrance with a single-leaf wood door and a two-light wood-sash transom window with a stone lintel. A secondary single-leaf entrance, with a stone sill, is located at the northeast end of the facade. Windows on the facade include four-over-four, double-hung, wood-sash, arched windows with segmental brick arches and stone sills. The rear elevation features a double-leaf wood door with six lights of upper glazing and an arched, multi-light transom window under a stone arch. One of the doors has a wicket door. The rest of the elevation is lined with symmetrically-placed four-over-four, double-hung, wood- sash, arched windows with segmental brick arches and stone sills matching the façade. The power plant also includes a brick/clay tile smoke stack located at the southeast corner of the main building. It is attached at the east corner via a brick hyphen and has a corbeled brick cornice. Also, there is an open stone, rectangular room attached to the northeast side. The foundation and walls are constructed of square-cut, coursed stone matching the foundation on the rest of the power plant. Although the roof has collapsed, the

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shape of the side wall suggests it had a side gable roof. A large, stone-arched cased opening is located on the rear, or southeast, elevation. Windows are limited and are only located on the upper level. These include two-light, wood-sash casement windows.

Along Deep Creek, North of School:

Complex Concrete Foundation

072-0049-0043

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Foundation (Site), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1950**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This complex foundation has poured concrete walls and three separate spaces, which may have been separate rooms. The walls are of varying heights dependent on the surrounding landscape.

Stone Wall

072-0049-0044

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Wall (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1840**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This old continuous stone wall is approximately two-and-a-half to three feet tall and is constructed of dry stacked, uncut rubble of varying sizes.

Outdoor Fireplace/Fire Pit

072-0049-0045

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Chimney (Site), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1900**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This Outdoor Fireplace/Fire Pit is constructed of brick. It has a stepped brick rear wall with two lower U-shaped sidewalls framing the pit enclosure. Each sidewall is capped with a flat slate sheet. A steel lintel supports the rear wall of the fire pit enclosure.

Stone Arched Bridge

072-0049-0046

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Bridge (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1840**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This Arched Bridge is constructed of stone in a variety of shapes and courses. The primary semi-circular arch of the bridge features perfectly even-sized square-cut stones continuing to the base level, similar to a Syrian arch, and secured with mortar. The side walls of the bridge, on each side of the arch, is constructed of dry-laid uncut rubble of varying sizes. It is covered with moss and leaves.

Agricultural Area Southeast of School:

Wood Shed Remnants

072-0049-0047

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Shed, Wood (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1962**

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Non-contributing *Total: 1*

The ruins of this wood shed features a wood-frame roof structure partially supported by square posts and covered with pieces of a standing-seam metal roof.

Corn Crib **072-0049-0048** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: **Corncrib (Structure), Stories, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1928**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This one-story, one-bay corn crib has a brick-pier foundation and inward-slanted wood-slat walls covered with screens. It has a front gable, standing-seam metal roof with vertical wood boards in the gable ends. The façade features a single-leaf board-and-batten wood door.

Circular Pit **072-0049-0070** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: **Trough (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1928**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This circular pit is constructed of an older concrete with stone. The upper concrete section rests on a concrete base. It has an inner wall and an outer wall with an open shaft in between. It is overgrown inside but otherwise in good condition.

Trough **072-0049-0071** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: **Trough (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1928**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This trough is rectangular and features short concrete walls. Vegetation has taken over in the center of it.

Wall **072-0049-0072** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: **Wall (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1928**

Contributing *Total: 1*

This square-cut, ashlar stone retaining wall is dry laid in an irregular course. It surrounds and encloses the corn crib site. A wire fence sits on top of a portion of the wall on the north side.

Shed **072-0049-0073** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: **Shed (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1928**

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

This wood shed is in ruins. It appears to once have had vertical board siding and a standing-seam metal roof with exposed rafters.

One Story Brick Garage **072-0049-0051** *Other DHR Id#:*

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Primary Resource: **Garage (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1930**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This one-story, three-bay garage has a parged concrete foundation and seven-course common-bond brick walls. It has a side gable standing-seam metal roof with exposed rafters and wood siding in each gable end. The façade, or southwest, elevation feature three open garage bays separated by brick piers. A portion of the double-leaf board-and-batten garage doors remain intact on the northernmost bay. A single-leaf board-and-batten pedestrian door is located on the northwest elevation. Six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows with wood sills are located on the side and rear elevations.

Gas Pump

072-0049-0074

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Other (Object), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1949**

Contributing *Total:* 1

February 2024: This one historic gas pump likely dates to either the 1940s or 1950s based on the design. This old pump is poor condition with a rusted steel exterior. It has a single pump hose and is missing the front panel.

Spring House

072-0049-0049

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Agricultural Outbuildings (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This one-story, one-bay, square, masonry Spring House has an uncut, irregular coursed stone foundation. The walls are six-course common-bond brick, and it has a pyramidal slate-shingle roof with exposed rafter tails. The façade, or northwest, elevation features a central single-leaf entrance a few steps above the ground-level. It has a wood door and a stone sill. A secondary entrance provides access to the basement on the rear, or southeast, elevation. It features a single-leaf wood door with a stone lintel and an infilled brick arch above. There is one window on each side elevation. Although in disrepair, the window configuration is two-over-two, double-hung, wood sash with stone sills.

Licking Creek Dam

072-0049-0050

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Dam (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1910**

Contributing *Total:* 1

This early dam structure has a stone and concrete retaining wall with a central spillway. A metal gear, for manually opening and closing the dam, is located on the wall near the spillway.

U-Shaped Foundation

072-0049-0052

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Foundation (Site), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1910**

Contributing *Total:* 1

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This U-shaped foundation is constructed of an earlier poured concrete. Remnants of wood boards and their arrangement suggests the possibility of stalls or some other divided space.

In the Woods:

Children's Cemetery

072-5065

Other DHR Id#: 072-0049-0061

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: Other, Ca 1900

Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
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This cemetery, which was designated for children associated with the St. Francis de Sales School, features a variety of headstone types ranging from simple wooden crosses to small metal plaques to modern granite headstones with a granite base. These date from as early as 1900 to 2004.

Sister's Cemetery

072-5066

Other DHR Id#: 072-0049-0062

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: Other, Ca 1900

Contributing *Total: 1*

This cemetery, which was designated for nuns associated with the St. Francis de Sales School, features simple arched headstones situated in neat rows with the names written on the top. It is enclosed with a short wooden post and rail fence.

Remnants of Dam

072-0049-0055

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Dam (Structure), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1800**

Non-contributing *Total: 1*

This remnant of a Dam from the early Stovall period is constructed of uncut stone laid with mortar in an irregular course.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☒ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

EDUCATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

ETHNIC HERITAGE: AFRICAN AMERICAN

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1840-1972

Significant Dates

1845

1895

1899

1970

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Davis, Alexander Jackson

Dodd, C.L.

Roby, H.A.

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

When Belmead was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1969, the selected areas of significance were Art, Education, Religion/ Philosophy, and Social/ Humanitarian (these areas today are Architecture, Education, Religion, and Social History). Belmead was listed at the national level of significance. The period of significance was broadly defined as 19th century, with 1845 listed as a specific date. That year, construction of the main house, Belmead, began; the work was completed over the course of several years. The nomination states that the mansion was designed by the nationally significant Gothic Revival architect, Alexander Jackson Davis. Additionally, the nomination summarized the property's educational significance as the site of St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College (later St. Emma Military Academy).⁶ Left unstated in the nomination form, for unknown reasons, was that Belmead also included St. Francis de Sales School for Girls.⁷ Although Agriculture was not among the areas of significance selected in the 1969 form, the nomination's statement of significance also noted Philip St. George Cocke (1809-1861), antebellum owner of Belmead, as "a noted and progressive agronomist."

This Boundary Increase for Belmead adds Agriculture as a statewide area of significance due to Philip St. George Cocke's significance as a leading proponent of agricultural reforms through "scientific farming" in pre-Civil War Virginia. Belmead's national significance in the areas of Architecture, Education, and Social History are retained. Related to the Agriculture, Education, and Social History areas of significance, Ethnic Heritage: African American is added at the statewide level of significance. Religion is not included as an area of significance for the purposes of the Boundary Increase nomination. Belmead's period of significance begins in 1840, the construction date of the earliest extant contributing architectural resources on the property, and ends in 1972 when St. Emma Military Academy closed; the St. Francis de Sales School for Girls closed in 1970. Other significant dates are 1845, when construction of the Gothic Revival mansion began, 1895, when St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College opened, and 1899, when St. Francis de Sales School opened. The property meets Criteria Consideration A because its significance is based on its multiple secular areas of significance, which demonstrate that Belmead is associated with significant events, trends, and architectural design and craftsmanship in Virginia's history.

⁶ In some historic sources, such as newspaper articles, St. Emma is referred to as St. Emma's, but this does not appear ever to have been part of the school's official name. Over the years of its operation, the school was named St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College (1895-c.1930), St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute (c. 1930-c.1945), and St. Emma Military Academy.

⁷ The 1969 nomination did not include a precisely drawn boundary for Belmead. The nomination specified that 439 acres of the property were included in the nomination. The topographic map accompanying the nomination includes a polygonal boundary that encompasses an area many times greater than 439 acres. The location of St. Francis de Sales School is clearly shown on the map and is within the polygonal boundary.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A – Agriculture and Ethnic Heritage: African American

Belmead's significance in the area of Agriculture is implied but not stated outright in the property's 1969 nomination, in which Philip St. George Cocke's contributions are briefly summarized: he was "a noted and progressive agronomist, serving as president of the Virginia Agricultural Society from 1853 to 1856."⁸ As part of the project to increase Belmead's nominated boundary, Agriculture and Ethnic Heritage: African American are added to the property's VLR and NRHP listing at the statewide level of significance. In addition to Cocke's contributions associated with the 1830-1860 "scientific farming" movement, Belmead has significance for the enslaved African Americans who worked the plantation's extensive agricultural fields and implemented Cocke's experimental findings during the property's period of significance, as well as for those who constructed the Belmead mansion, a distinctive granary, a stone bridge and stone walls, a stone dam, and two pairs of gate markers.

Philip St. George Cocke's Contributions to "Scientific Farming"

Cocke was born in Surry County, Virginia, to John Hartwell Cocke (1780-1866) and Ann Blaws Barraud Cocke (d. 1816). After studies at the University of Virginia between 1825-1828, Cocke enrolled at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating sixth in a class of 45 in 1832. As a second lieutenant, Cocke briefly served in Charleston, South Carolina, before resigning his commission in 1834.⁹ The same year, he married Sally Elizabeth Courtney Bowdoin (1815-1872), who had been a ward of John Hartwell Cocke's. Courtney Bowdoin had been orphaned at the age of five. Her father had owned a nearby 1,000-acre plantation, Four Mile Tree, along the James River, as well as plantations totaling 6,000 acres in Brunswick County; all of his holdings were worked by enslaved African American men, women, and children. The elder Cocke managed Courtney Bowdoin's inheritance on her behalf until her marriage, at which point Philip Cocke took ownership. They began their married life at Four Mile Tree, a place to which Courtney maintained deep emotional attachment. John Cocke supervised improvements to the mansion, while Courtney Bowdoin Cocke focused her energies on restoring the ornamental garden and bearing the first of the total 11 children the couple had together. The Cockes accumulated considerable wealth through inherited and acquired landholdings, as well as their reliance on an enslaved workforce of African American people.¹⁰

⁸ Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, "Belmead," National Register nomination, https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/072-0049_Belmead_1969_NRHP_Final_Nomination.pdf, p. 4.

⁹ Kenneth Koons, "Philip St. George Cocke (1809–1861)," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, December 7, 2020, <https://encyclopedia.virginia.org/entries/cocke-philip-st-george-1809-1861>.

¹⁰ "A Sesquicentennial Tribute [Philip St. George Cocke]," *The Belmeadian*, April 1959, p. 3, original document at the University of Virginia Albert and Shirley Smalls Collection Library, Miscellaneous Papers Relating to Philip St. George Cocke and "Belmead," 1959-1970, MSS 2433-an; Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 153. *The Belmeadian* appears to have been a newspaper, possibly a student newspaper, for St. Emma Military Academy and St. Francis de Sales School.

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Philip Cocke's experience at Four Mile Tree provided impetus for his lifelong ambition to improve agricultural practices in Virginia because "the land and the slaves who worked it provided his wealth," as architectural historian Daniel Bluestone noted.¹¹ Four Mile Tree had been farmed continuously for generations, primarily as a tobacco plantation. During Virginia's colonial era, tobacco had been a cash crop of such high value that most farmers sowed it year after year. A monoculture of tobacco, however, depleted the soil of nutrients. For decades in the 17th and 18th centuries, prosperous landowners who exhausted the productivity of one plantation simply acquired another and repeated the practice of planting tobacco to the exclusion of other crops until, again, the soil had been exhausted and they moved again to fresh lands. By the third decade of the 19th century, such practices were no longer feasible as Virginia was more heavily populated and virgin lands were no longer easily accessible. Cocke was determined to use more sustainable practices and encouraged his peers to do the same.¹²

Edmund Ruffin (1794-1865), "the father of soil science," advocated for improved farming methods, such as use of marl (lime) and manures as fertilizer and crop rotation to replace the nutrients expended by raising cash crops.¹³ With the prodigious energy that characterized Cocke's adult life, he experimented with these methods for a few seasons at Four Mile Tree, but quickly determined that natural processes likely were the most effective for improving much of its soil for continued farming. Bottomlands along rivers and creeks, which saw routine floods that deposited fresh silt on the land, remained productive, a well-known phenomenon that also informed Cocke's management of Four Mile Tree.¹⁴

Although Courtney Cocke maintained deep emotional attachment to Four Mile Tree, Philip Cocke persuaded her that they must move their family to a new property to secure their financial wellbeing. In 1838, the couple purchased Belmead in Powhatan County, approximately 30 miles upriver from Surry County.¹⁵ Here, Cocke put into practice the "scientific farming" principles that were being promulgated among well-informed planters of the period. Bluestone found that Cocke's stances became a matter of "stewardship," as opposed to the resource extraction of earlier generations. Additionally, Cocke believed that irresponsible agricultural practices

¹¹ Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 153.

¹² Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 153-155, 160.

¹³ "Edmund Ruffin," National Park Service, November 10, 2018, <https://www.nps.gov/people/edmund-ruffin.htm>; Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 154.

¹⁴ Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 154.

¹⁵ William Old, 1841, Feb. 1, ALS, to P St.G C re opinion on Belmead title, typed manuscript, at the University of Virginia Albert and Shirley Smalls Collection Library, Miscellaneous Papers Relating to Philip St. George Cocke and "Belmead," 1959-1970, SS 2433-n, p. 2.

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reflected a broader decline in Virginia's economy and political influence, a topic that became of increasing concern to him over the next two decades.¹⁶

Cocke's considerable interest in all aspects of his plantations' operations was evidenced through several other means. He hired an overseer for each of his holdings, including one located in Mississippi, and prepared a detailed manual for their use. First published in 1852, his *Plantation and Farm Instruction, Regulation, Record, Inventory and Account Book* described his expectations for management of each plantation's records, inventories, assets, and activities. A second edition was published in 1861.¹⁷ Cocke's plantation manual begins with his expectations for the behavior of the overseers themselves, which he communicated through a lengthy quote of George Washington, who Cocke held in high regard, in a letter to his own overseer:

I do in explicit terms, enjoin upon you to remain constantly at home... and to be constantly with your people when there. There is no other sure way of getting work well done, and quickly, by negroes; for when an overseer's back is turned, the most of them will slight their work, or be idle altogether; in which case correction cannot retrieve either, but often produces evils which are worse than the disease... You will recollect that your time is paid for by me, and if I am deprived of it, it is worse even than robbing my purse, because it is also a breach of trust, which every honest man ought to hold most sacred.¹⁸

Cocke's detailed instruction manual continued with regard to care for each livestock species, inventories and maintenance of farming tools, appropriate methods for cultivation, including use of guano and manures as fertilizer and crop rotation schedules, a template for contracts, lists of weights and measures, conversion tables for different types of currency, instructions for basic arithmetic and geometry needed to manage operations, and blank pages for recording events and activities throughout the year and for taking inventories on a quarterly schedule. Cocke also explained his many opinions and advice about managing an enslaved workforce, as he was committed to the continuation of race-based, inherited enslavement; the ramifications of his beliefs are discussed further below. Finally, Cocke's manual included a lengthy list of books that his plantation managers were expected to read.¹⁹ The extent to which his various managers may have complied with the manual is not known. Cocke, however, routinely visited his properties and corresponded with his father and eldest son about his findings. His principles for plantation

¹⁶ Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 155. By the 1830s, "westward expansion" of the United States was well under way and steadily pulled creative energies, younger generations, capital, and political interest beyond the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River and beyond.

¹⁷ Philip St. George Cocke, *Plantation and farm instruction, regulation, record, inventory and account book : for the use of the manager on the estate of Philip St. George Cocke, and for the better ordering and management of plantation and farm business in many particulars*, Second Edition with additions (Richmond, Va.: J.W. Randolph & Co., 1861), PDF document available from <https://search.lib.virginia.edu/catalog/u4896748>.

¹⁸ Philip St. George Cocke, *Plantation and farm instruction*, p. 3. In the quote, "your people" is a reference to the African Americans enslaved by Washington. "My people" was a term used by many Virginia enslavers with regard to enslaved people. It was not a term meant to apply to an enslaver's family, friends, or other people of their acquaintance.

¹⁹ Philip St. George Cocke, *Plantation and farm instruction*, p. 4-20.

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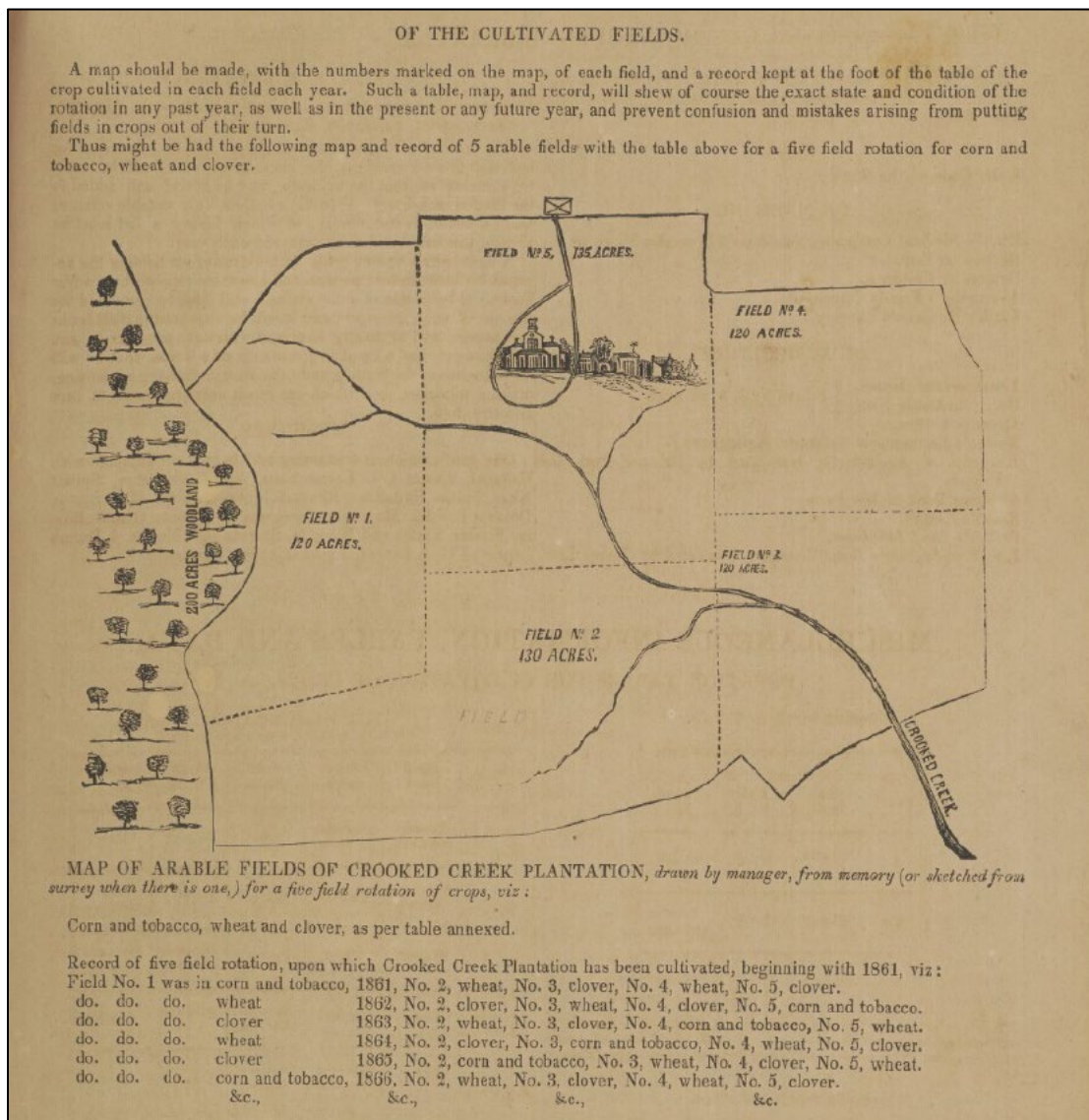


Figure 19. Instructions for planning crop rotations from Philip St. George Cocke's Plantation and farm instruction book, p. 11.

management were developed through experience as well as extensive research. In a time when published books were expensive and often scarce, he assembled a library of 600 volumes on various topics related to agriculture and plantations.²⁰

Cocke's enduring interest in crop rotation and maintenance of agricultural fields also was demonstrated in his personal papers as well as correspondence and papers kept by his father, John Hartwell Cocke. Multiple drawings of field layouts at Belmead and of tables detailing crop

²⁰ Charles W. Turner, "Virginia Agricultural Reform, 1815-1860 and Philip St. George Cocke," *Agricultural History* Vol. 26 No. 3 (July 1952), p. 51-53.

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rotation schedules are among their respective collections (Figures 20-22). Both types of records demonstrate Cocke's implementation of the scientific farming methods he espoused, as well as the diversified cash crops raised at Belmead. Cocke also was something of an innovator as he planted thousands of saplings on his landholdings, including Belmead, in the belief that reforestation would aid the land's recovery from soil exhaustion. Cocke likely did not expect to see these results during his own lifetime, but he hoped that Belmead and his other plantations would be a legacy that would enrich his lineage for generations.²¹

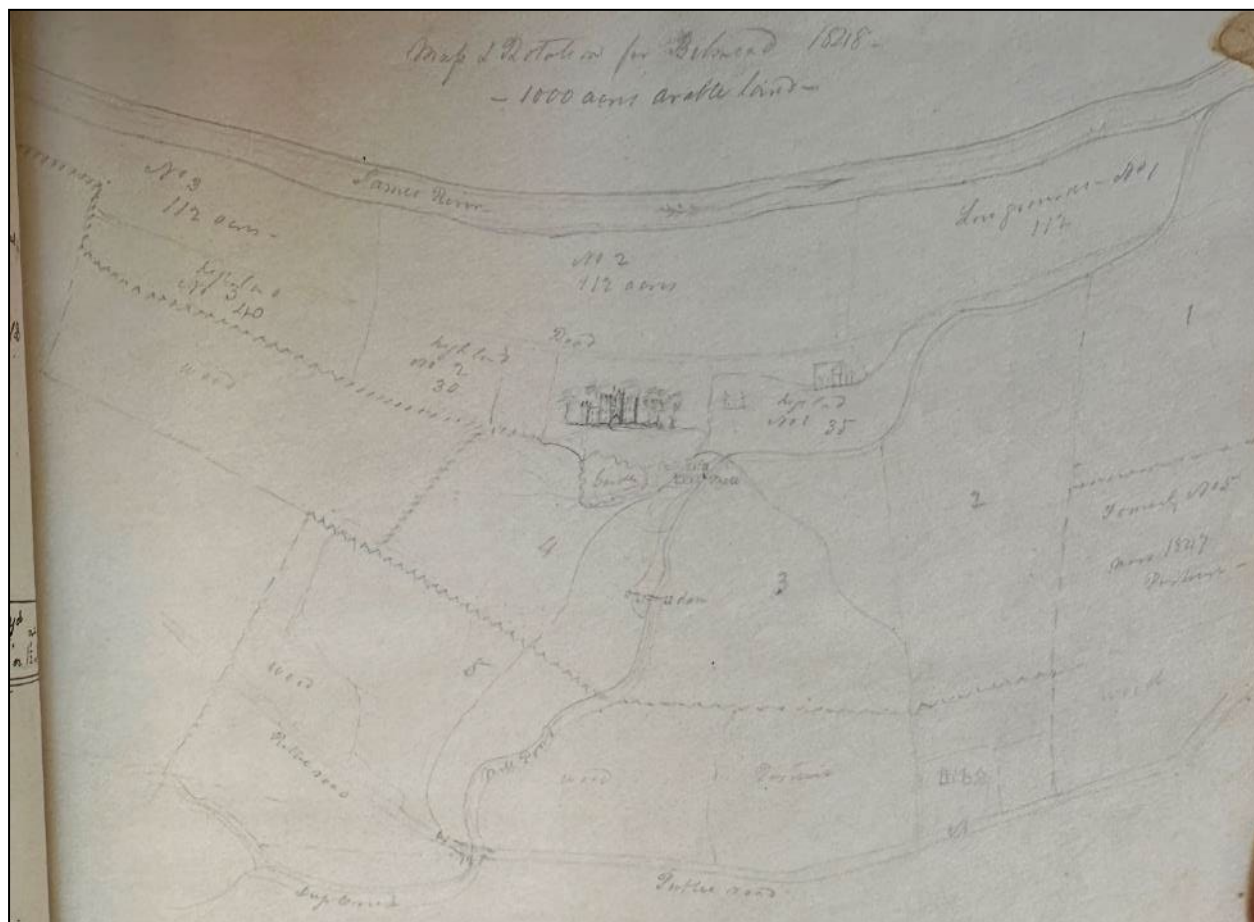


Figure 20. Ca. 1848 map of Belmead, including sketch of primary dwelling, Deep Creek and its mill pond, the James River, and layout of pastures and woodlands across the plantation. Map is in the John Hartwell Cocke papers, MSS 640, Box 189, at the University of Virginia Albert and Shirley Smalls Special Collection Library.

The Tidewater region's soil exhaustion, brought on by tobacco monoculture throughout the colonial era, provided stark evidence of the ill effects of uninformed agricultural practices. As land became increasingly valuable, the necessity to maximize productivity instilled in planters such as Cocke the wisdom of avoiding the mistakes of the past.

²¹ Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 160.

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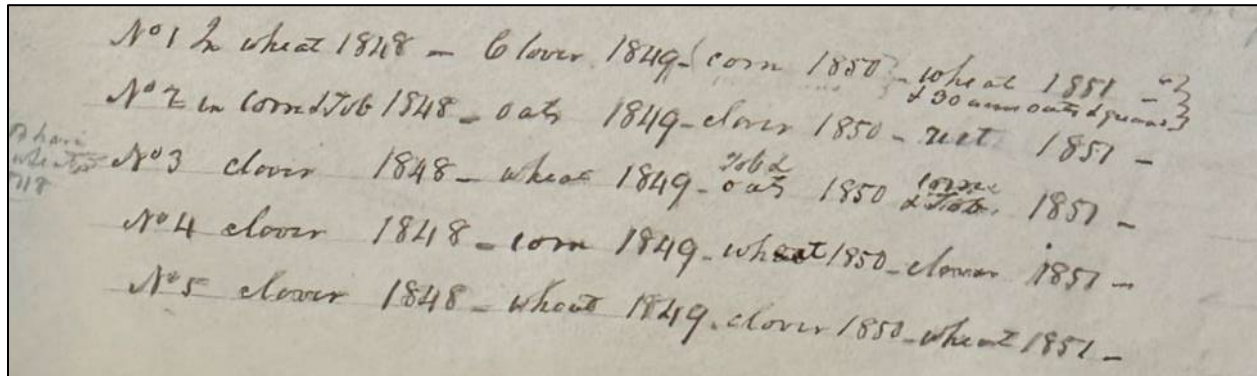


Figure 21. The above crop rotation schedule is below the ca. 1848 drawing and refers to the numbered tracts in Figure 20).

Another outlet for Cocke's prodigious interests came in the form of educational societies for disseminating the latest scientific farming research. Throughout the early 19th century, assorted attempts to form agricultural improvement societies had occurred sporadically across Virginia. Most were local organizations that endured for brief spans and appear to have served a social as well as educational purpose, primarily suited for plantation elites rather than the "yeoman farmers" extolled in earlier times. In the Piedmont region, where Powhatan County is located, the Albemarle County society's membership included Thomas Jefferson and James Madison. At society meetings, papers on different aspects of agricultural practices and experiments were presented. Local fairs, during which planters showed livestock and examples of agricultural products, were popular as well. Orange County, Fredericksburg, and Mecklenburg County also hosted agricultural societies, as did numerous counties in Virginia's more populous Tidewater region. Along with a number of his peers, Cocke conducted an assortment of agricultural experiments of his own design and sought outlets for reporting his findings. He used Belmead, the plantation where his family resided and which he considered to be his home, as his preferred base for his research and experiments.²²

²² Charles W. Turner, "Virginia Agricultural Reform, 1815-1860 and Philip St. George Cocke," *Agricultural History* Vol. 26 No. 3 (July 1952), p. 45-48; Kenneth Koons, "Philip St. George Cocke (1809-1861)," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, December 7, 2020, <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/cocke-philip-st-george-1809-1861>; "A Sesquicentennial Tribute [Philip St. George Cocke]," *The Belmeadian*, April 1959, p. 3, original document at the University of Virginia Albert and Shirley Smalls Collection Library, Miscellaneous Papers Relating to Philip St. George Cocke and "Belmead," 1959-1970, MSS 2433-an.

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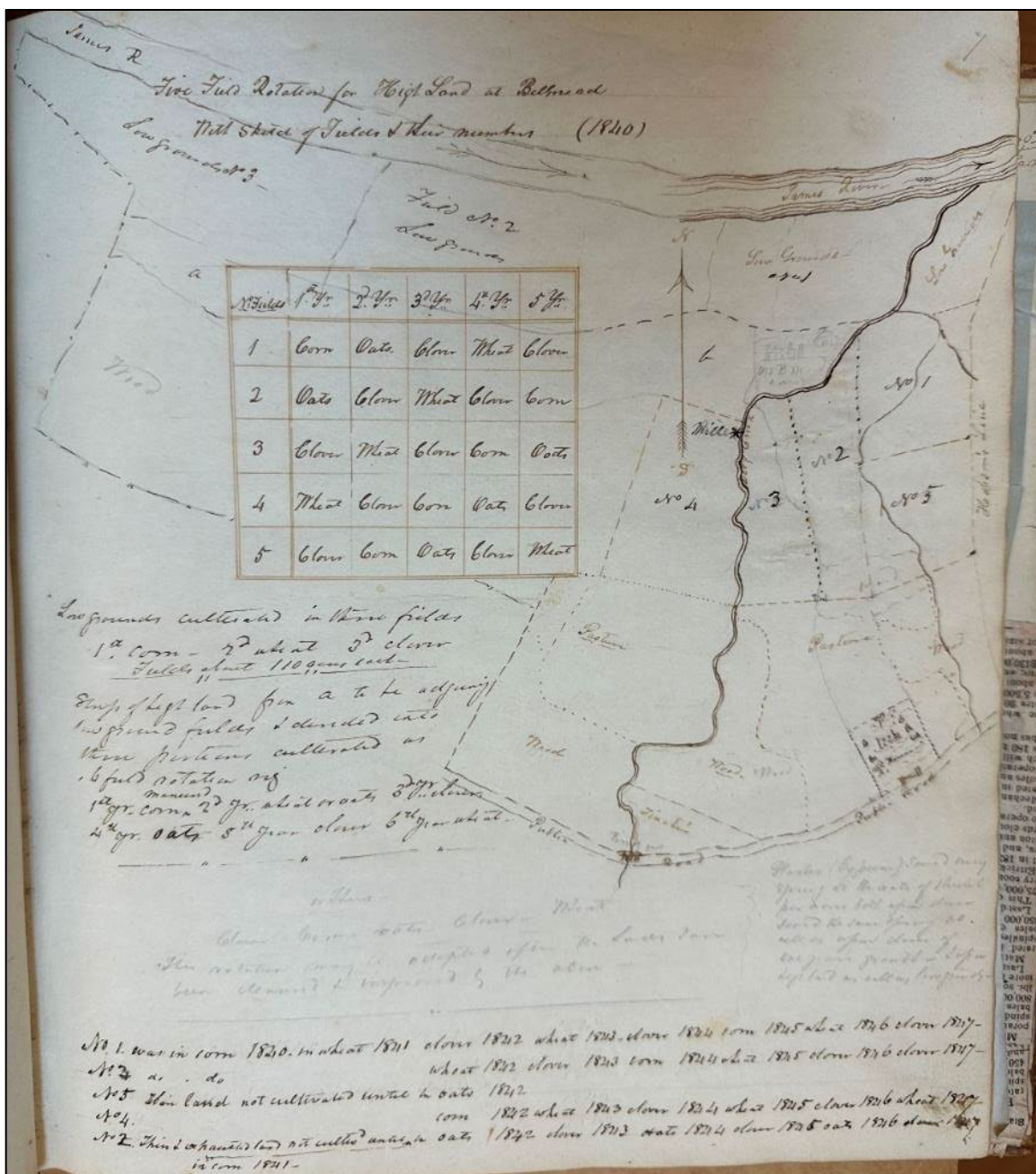


Figure 22. Ca. 1848 map of west end of Belmead showing layout of fields and woodlands. The numbered table is a crop rotation schedule. Additional notes about the crop rotations are at the bottom of the drawing. Map is in the John Hartwell Cocke papers, MSS 640, Box 189 at the University of Virginia Albert and Shirley Smalls Special Collection Library.

Cocke aspired to establish a state agricultural society that would endure, a project he began in 1853 in Richmond. Along with other prosperous plantation owners, Cocke contributed \$100 to establish a sound financial foundation for the organization. The group's first order of business

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was to host a state fair in Richmond, and Cocke prepared a brochure advertising the opportunities for farmers and their families to convene and display their livestock and wares and to learn about advances in agriculture.²³ With the \$4,000 raised during the fair, Cocke next set about setting up an office for the state society, establishing an executive committee to manage operation, and personally paying for a statewide agricultural survey. Also among his goals were the creation of a library and “a depository for samples and information about seeds, plants, soils, and fertilizers” that society members could access for their own experiments.²⁴

Cocke served as president of the newly organized Virginia Agricultural Society between 1853-1856.²⁵ In 1855, Cocke organized a “Farmers Assembly,” composed of farmers from every county in Virginia, to lobby the General Assembly for creation of an agricultural department at one of Virginia’s universities. Cocke pledged \$20,000 in bonds, to be held by him, to create three professorships and the Farmers Assembly asked for \$300,000 of state funds for the purpose. The University of Virginia’s Board of Visitors, as well as a substantial portion of the General Assembly, supported the plan in principle but disagreed on the specifics for its implementation. Cocke’s own insistence on reserving the right to appoint the specific individuals to hold the professorships appears to have doomed the project, as the Board of Visitors resisted relinquishing control of the new agricultural department to one individual. Cocke persisted with alternative proposals, going so far as to purchase a large tract of land in Chesterfield County to provide a site for an independent agricultural school, and tasking his eldest son, John Bowdoin Cocke, and the Superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute, Francis H. Smith, with visiting agricultural schools in Europe to learn more about those operations. Through his service on the board of the Virginia Military Institute between 1846-1852 and again from 1858-1861, Cocke also advocated for adding an agricultural program to that school’s curriculum, including pledging a considerable personal donation for the purpose.²⁶ Fundamental to Cocke’s promotion of “scientific farming” principles was his commitment to the continuation of slavery in Virginia and the other Southern states. When addressing members of the General Assembly and his fellow planters, Cocke advocated for policies that would sustain slavery as well as maintaining

²³ Charles W. Turner, “Virginia Agricultural Reform, 1815-1860 and Philip St. George Cocke,” *Agricultural History* Vol. 26 No. 3 (July 1952), p. 54; Gary Robertson, “A Fair History,” *Virginia Magazine*, August 24, 2017, <https://richmondmagazine.com/news/news/a-fair-history/>. But for a few breaks caused by the Civil War, financial difficulties during the early 20th century, and World War II, the state fair continued to be held on an annual basis in Richmond until the early 1940s; the event moved to Caroline County in 1946.

²⁴ Daniel Bluestone, “A.J. Davis’s Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery,” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 163.

²⁵ Charles W. Turner, “Virginia Agricultural Reform, 1815-1860 and Philip St. George Cocke,” *Agricultural History* Vol. 26 No. 3 (July 1952), p. 57; Kenneth Koons, “Philip St. George Cocke (1809–1861),” *Encyclopedia Virginia*, December 7, 2020, <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/cocke-philip-st-george-1809-1861>; “A Sesquicentennial Tribute [Philip St. George Cocke],” *The Belmeadian*, April 1959, p. 3, original document at the University of Virginia Albert and Shirley Smalls Collection Library, Miscellaneous Papers Relating to Philip St. George Cocke and “Belmead,” 1959-1970, MSS 2433-an.

²⁶ Charles W. Turner, “Virginia Agricultural Reform, 1815-1860 and Philip St. George Cocke,” *Agricultural History* Vol. 26 No. 3 (July 1952), p. 57-64; Kenneth Koons, “Philip St. George Cocke (1809–1861),” *Encyclopedia Virginia*, December 7, 2020, <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/cocke-philip-st-george-1809-1861>; Daniel Bluestone, “A.J. Davis’s Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery,” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 163.

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the privileges of the enslaving planter class who had monopolized political power in Virginia since the institution of slavery was established during the 17th century.²⁷ As one of the wealthiest plantation owners in Virginia, and possibly across the entire Southern states, Cocke had far more resources at his disposal than most of his peers. By 1860, his net worth was estimated at \$1 million.²⁸

It is possible that Cocke's efforts were unsuccessful due to his own insistence on controlling much of the project, as well as his "temperamental" personality.²⁹ Although obviously dedicated to improving Virginia's agriculture, Cocke also may have misunderstood key aspects of the state's agricultural economy during the mid-19th century. Cocke argued that Virginia's farmers resisted diversification of their cash crops, did not understand the importance of crop rotation, and also were not current on livestock management methods. A 1950s review of the period's census data, surveys, publications and newspaper articles, as well as correspondence among planters, led author Charles W. Turner to conclude that sufficient empirical data existed to conclude that "scientific" farming methods were widely deployed and included tactics to alleviate erosion through use of cover crops and improved drainage, spreading of marl to improve crop yields, and diversification of both crop and livestock varieties. Between 1840-1860, agricultural land values increased substantially as well.³⁰

Continued negotiations regarding his proposed agricultural school were derailed, however, by the 1859 raid on Harper's Ferry led by John Brown, the 1860 secession crisis when South Carolina attempted to leave the United States, and the April 1861 start of the Civil War. In response to the raid on Harper's Ferry, with his customary zeal for action and his proclivity for taking personal offense at anything he perceived as a slight against Virginia, Cocke took it upon himself to organize a calvary troop made up of volunteers. He assumed the role of brigadier general, a commission he felt warranted due to his graduation from the military academy at West Point and his brief period of service in South Carolina. When the Powhatan volunteers were folded into the Confederate Army, Cocke's rank was changed to colonel, a lowering of status that he took as a personal affront made by the highest echelons of Confederate leadership. He commanded the 5th Brigade at the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861, a major victory for the Confederate Army during the war's first months. But, in Cocke's opinion, General Pierre Beauregard failed to give Cocke sufficient credit for his role in the battlefield success. The matter appears to have become a personal torment soon remarked upon by his friends and colleagues. He also may have been distraught about the war itself, which he saw as an attack

²⁷ Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 163.

²⁸ Kenneth Koons, "Philip St. George Cocke (1809–1861)," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, December 7, 2020, <https://encyclopediaivirginia.org/entries/cocke-philip-st-george-1809-1861>. Monetary values herein are not adjusted for inflation

²⁹ Kenneth Koons, "Philip St. George Cocke (1809–1861)," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, December 7, 2020, <https://encyclopediaivirginia.org/entries/cocke-philip-st-george-1809-1861>.

³⁰ Charles W. Turner, "Virginia Agricultural Reform, 1815-1860 and Philip St. George Cocke," *Agricultural History* Vol. 26 No. 3 (July 1952), p. 64-65. Sources referenced by Turner included period publications such as *Southern Planter*, *The Cultivator*, *The American Agricultural Press*, *Transactions of Virginia State Agricultural Society*, and the *U.S. Bureau of the Census*, 6th, 7th, and 8th census, 1840, 1850, 1860 (Final Reports).

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against slavery, the institution that he believed must be maintained in order to shore up his family's financial prowess. Promoted to the level of brigadier general in October 1861, Cocke apparently took no comfort in his new role, but instead ruminated on "what he regarded as poor treatment by General Robert E. Lee and others." In a December 23, 1861, letter that Cocke's daughter, Lucy Cary Cocke wrote to her sister, Sally Faulcon Cocke, she described his "most distressing state of *nervous excitement*, completely worn out,—he is greatly altered & I think *most seriously* indisposed." Three days later, while at home at Belmead, Cocke committed suicide. Originally buried at Belmead, his remains later were moved to Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.³¹

Cocke's Reliance on Slavery

As noted above, Philip St. George Cocke was deeply committed to exploitation of an enslaved workforce to maximize operations at his multiple plantations. By 1860, Belmead encompassed 2,300 acres and approximately 124 enslaved people worked the plantation. His total landholdings stood at 27,000 acres in Virginia and Mississippi, and he enslaved approximately 610 African American men, women, and children.³² Cocke's landholdings meant that he purchased and sold hundreds of enslaved individuals. Due to his Mississippi plantation, he also participated in the "Second Middle Passage," a term coined with regard to the mid-19th century practice of forcing enslaved African Americans to move from Virginia farther south and west to areas newly opening to acquisitions by established enslavers in the Mid-Atlantic.³³

In the introduction to his plantation manager's manual, Cocke repeated George Washington's explanation, written in stark terms, of what he expected even of an enslaved child, "...so soon as they are able to work out, I expect to reap the benefit of their labor myself."³⁴ Not one to overlook details, Cocke included specific parameters within which a plantation manager was to maintain order and maximize productiveness of the enslaved population. He also specified the behavior to be extracted from those who were enslaved. In such details, the inhumaneness of enslavement is revealed in the banality of its details. Living quarters were to be provided for each enslaved family, to consist of a single room with a fireplace. Once per year, a single set of

³¹ Kenneth Koons, "Philip St. George Cocke (1809–1861)," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, December 7, 2020, <https://encyclopediaofvirginia.org/entries/cocke-philip-st-george-1809-1861>; "A Sesquicentennial Tribute [Philip St. George Cocke]," *The Belmeadian*, April 1959, p. 3, original document at the University of Virginia Albert and Shirley Smalls Collection Library, Miscellaneous Papers Relating to Philip St. George Cocke and "Belmead," 1959-1970, MSS 2433-an; Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 164.

³² Charles W. Turner, "Virginia Agricultural Reform, 1815-1860 and Philip St. George Cocke," *Agricultural History* Vol. 26 No. 3 (July 1952), p. 50; Kenneth Koons, "Philip St. George Cocke (1809–1861)," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, December 7, 2020, <https://encyclopediaofvirginia.org/entries/cocke-philip-st-george-1809-1861>; "Inventory – Beldale Plantation, Arthur's Creek Plantation, Rose Creek Plantation, Pea Hill Plantation, Meherrin, and Belmead: Slave, Stock, and Implement Inventories for Pea Hill, Belmead, Rose Creek, Arthurs Creek, and Meherrin," At the University of Virginia, Albert and Shirley Smalls Collection Library, John Hartwell Cocke, papers, MSS 640, Box 159. Monetary values are not adjusted for inflation.

³³ Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 157-158;

³⁴ Philip St. George Cocke, *Plantation and farm instruction*, p. 3.

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summer clothing and a set of winter clothing were to be allotted to each enslaved man, woman, and child, and such clothing was to be made from materials, such as cotton and wool, that were grown and processed by the enslaved workers. Monthly rations only of bacon and cornmeal were to be afforded to each enslaved person, with women to receive the same amount as children, and men provided with a slightly higher ration. Each enslaved family was required to maintain their own vegetable garden to supplement their rations. Cocke's minute calculation of allotments to each enslaved person, coupled with requiring the enslaved people to raise and process materials for making their own clothes and supplementing their limited rations by growing their own vegetables, were typical of plantation management practices throughout Virginia. Designed to minimize outlays for finished goods and diversion of cash crops and livestock for internal use rather than sale at markets, planters reduced the expense of sustaining enslaved men, women, and children while extracting from each of them the productive labor of their entire lifetime.³⁵

Cocke, as had generations of Virginia enslavers before him, also established measures for controlling the movements and activities of those he enslaved. In his manual, he specified a curfew of 9 p.m. and, for its enforcement, ordered plantation managers to enter living quarters "at irregular and unexpected hours of the night" to verify the presence of the entire family. Managers also were instructed to establish a nightly patrol to watch for unauthorized activity. At dawn each day, enslaved people were summoned to verify all were present. Cocke further determined to quash resistance among his enslaved workers through insidious means of subjugation:

1st. The most entire submission and obedience will be required on the part of every negro... and any negro who shall resist such authority must be arrested at all hazard and forthwith punished until he submit, and to the satisfaction of the agent or manager who has been resisted.

2nd. In case of the resistance of any negro, every other one present will be required to assist in arresting him, and should any negro refuse when ordered to arrest another, he shall be punished just the same as if he himself had resisted.³⁶

Methods such as these were standard practices at any place in Virginia where enslaved people lived and worked. As a counterpoint to beliefs and practices such as Cocke espoused, some planters attempted to recognize and respond to the negative impacts of enslavement on themselves and on White society; in rare instances, an enslaver recognized the humanity of the enslaved as equal to his own. While Philip St. George Cocke maintained that slavery could not ever be abolished, his own father, John Hartwell Cocke, came to a different conclusion. J. H. Cocke began by breaking Virginia laws, in place since 1806, that forbade teaching enslaved people to read and write. He allowed people he enslaved to receive religious instruction. Ultimately, he came to support "colonization" of enslaved people, an organized effort by many enslavers to procure land in Africa for enslaved African Americans to occupy.³⁷ J. H. Cocke

³⁵ Philip St. George Cocke, *Plantation and farm instruction*, p. 4-5.

³⁶ Philip St. George Cocke, *Plantation and farm instruction*, p. 9.

³⁷ The American Colonization Society (ACS), formed in 1817, procured land on the west African coast in 1822 and established a colony they named Liberia. Their effort was regarded by abolitionists as a way to shirk their responsibilities to people who had been enslaved for generations by forcibly removing them from American soil.

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further decided that retention of slavery in a democratic republic was untenable, a conclusion borne out by the outbreak of the Civil War in April 1861.³⁸

Although circumstances rendered his plans for an agricultural school unattainable, Philip St. George Cocke's efforts to improve Virginia agriculture, while simultaneously clinging to the idea that slavery was necessary for the planter class's continued prosperity, were a significant contribution in the history of slavery-based agriculture in Virginia. As the site of many of his agricultural experiments and of his personal dwelling, where he also conducted business and social activities related to his agricultural interests, Belmead is directly associated with this aspect of Cocke's productive career.

Significance of Enslaved African Americans at Belmead

The physical landscape of Belmead's extensive agricultural fields are associated with the work of enslaved laborers who implemented Cocke's experiments and scientific farming techniques, and the materials, design, and workmanship of surviving c. 1840-1857 architectural resources at Belmead embody the labor and talents of the enslaved African Americans who created them. According to 1859 and 1860 "inventories of negroes" included with John Hartwell Cocke's papers at the University of Virginia, enslaved men and women at Belmead who engaged in agricultural work were Ben and Daniel (foremen), Ned Scott (a herdsman), Robert, Peyton, George, Davie, Harrison, Godfrey, David, Lewis, Cole, Nicholas, Louisa, Jane, Courtney, Emily, Malvina, Felicia, Catherine, Caroline, Susan, Margaret, Harriet, and Mary (fieldhands), Oldham (head plowman), Ned Scott, Bob, Theodrick, Alick, Cato, Joe, Miles, Theophilus, Cary, and Simon (plowmen), Sturdevant (an ostler), Jeffrey and Cole (cowherds), Sterling and Nicholas (hogherds), William and Alfred (wagoners), James and Lucy (millers), Tom, Henry Cox, Dick, and Henry (carters), Taylor and John (stable boys), and Collin (a wheelwright). Enslaved men and women also engaged in the plantation's operations in other ways, such as John (a gardener), Tom, Moses, and Napoleon (butlers), Stephen (carriage driver), Ned Lewis (shoemaker), Tabby, Sylvia, Sylvie, Daphne, Anna, Martha, Sally, and Mary Anne (cooks), Isabel, Nancy, Mariah, and Sally (nurses), Francis (a spinner), Maria (a milker), Minerva and Lizzy (cooks), Diana, Anna and Mary Jane (housemaids), and Parthena and Epsy (seamstresses), Evelina (a washer), and James (a houseboy). This is not a complete list of all the enslaved people at Belmead. Most

Black Americans were split on whether the colony in Africa represented new opportunities for freedom and autonomy. The U.S. government refused to acknowledge the colony, and European and African powers saw it as an unlawful private effort rather than a colony established by a sovereign nation. In 1847, Liberians proclaimed themselves an independent nation. See "The African American Mosaic: Colonization," Library of Congress, no date, <https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/african/afam002.html>.

³⁸ Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 157-159. According to Bluestone, Cocke may have aligned himself with the "Founding Fathers" generation who argued that slavery was incompatible with the ideals of the democratic republic they had created. Many of these men, despite their misgivings, never manumitted the enslaved people they held, dependent as they were on the financial returns that accrued to them through slavery.

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of the children under the age of 12 were not recorded as having task assignments and some of the names and occupations in the inventory were not legible.³⁹

The agricultural fields of Belmead remained in active use for decades after the Civil War due to the work, first, of freedmen who continued to labor at Belmead during Reconstruction and, later, of students at the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College established in 1899 (discussed below). The school was renamed St. Emma Military Academy during the 20th century, but agricultural instruction continued to be integral to the school's curriculum until its closure in 1972. The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament owned and occupied Belmead through the 2010s and at least some agricultural activity continued during this span through leasing of the farm fields. The current property owner also has leased portions of the property for farming.

Due to the prolonged agricultural activity at Belmead, with no subdivision or redevelopment of the agricultural areas but for the outbuildings erected for use by students at St. Emma, the integrity of the agricultural landscape has been maintained. Topographic maps and aerial views from 1943 to 2024 document the property's continued integrity. At perhaps the height of St. Emma's agricultural productivity, a sprawling complex of farm buildings and structures were erected by the early 1940s and continued in use through the 1960s (Figures 23-25). After St. Emma closed in 1972, the proportion of open fields to woodlands has remained consistent through today (Figures 26-31). Due to the lack of disturbance and redevelopment across Belmead, the potential to identify archaeological deposits and historic landscape features is high. Should archaeological investigations be undertaken, identification of important sites, including those of slave dwellings, the plantation manager's house, agricultural outbuildings, drainage ditches, and other components of the historic cultural landscape, is likely.

³⁹ "Inventory – Beldale Plantation, Arthur's Creek Plantation, Rose Creek Plantation, Pea Hill Plantation, Meherrin, and Belmead: Slave, Stock, and Implement Inventories for Pea Hill, Belmead, Rose Creek, Arthurs Creek, and Meherrin," at the University of Virginia, Albert and Shirley Smalls Collection Library, John Hartwell Cocke, papers, MSS 640, Box 159. During the slavery era in Virginia, enslaved persons were classified as "personal property" of the people who enslaved them and, therefore, were subject to taxation along with other types of personal property, including livestock and farming implements and tools. For purposes of taxation, enslavers maintained inventories of the enslaved people and assigned a dollar value to each person. Such inventories also occasionally included other information, including the enslaved person's age, mother's name, and/or occupation. A child's mother's name was recorded because heritable slavery descended through the matrilineal line.

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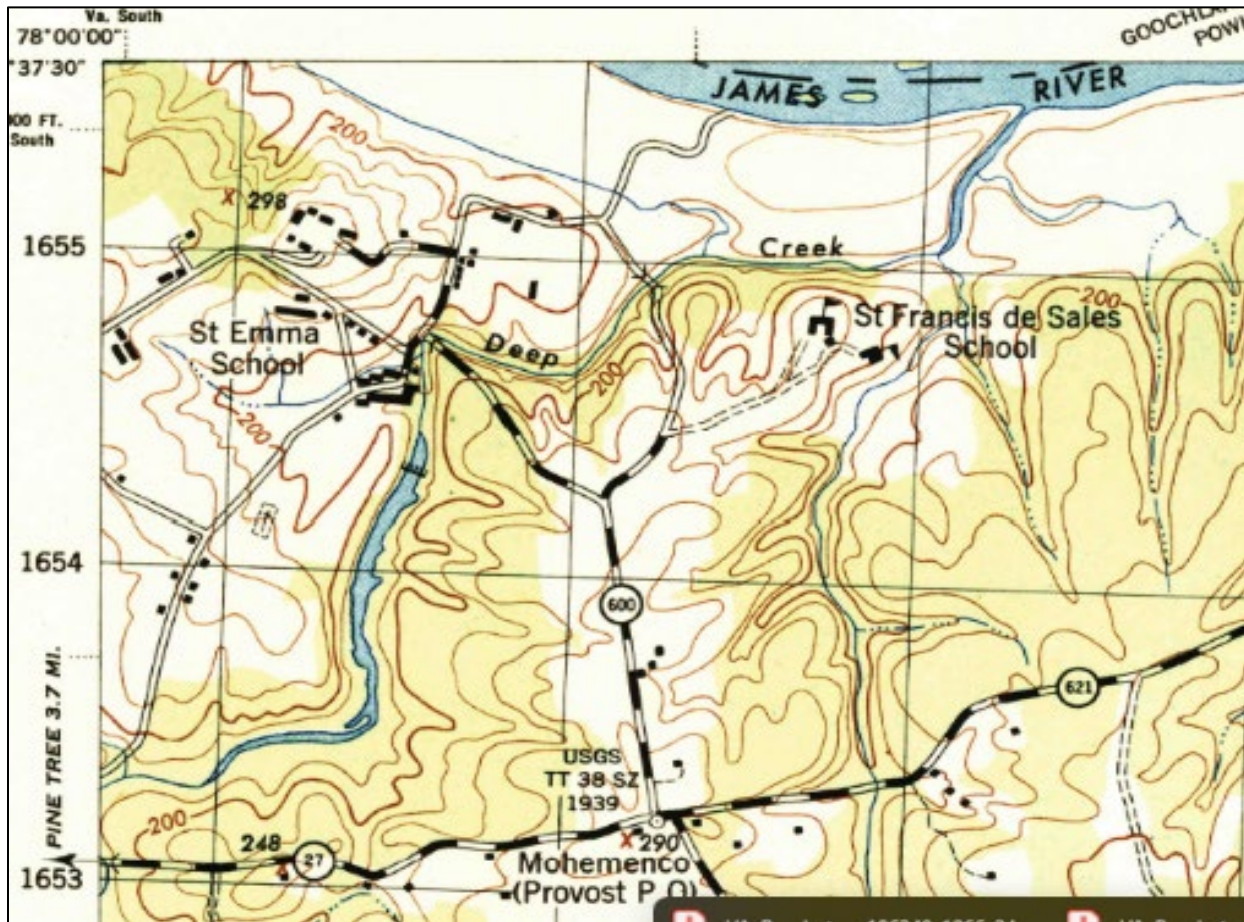


Figure 23. Powhatan Quadrangle topographic map, prepared by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, under the direction of Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, 1943.

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Figure 24. Powhatan Quadrangle topographic map, mapped by the Army Map Service, published for civil use by the Geological Survey, 1943.

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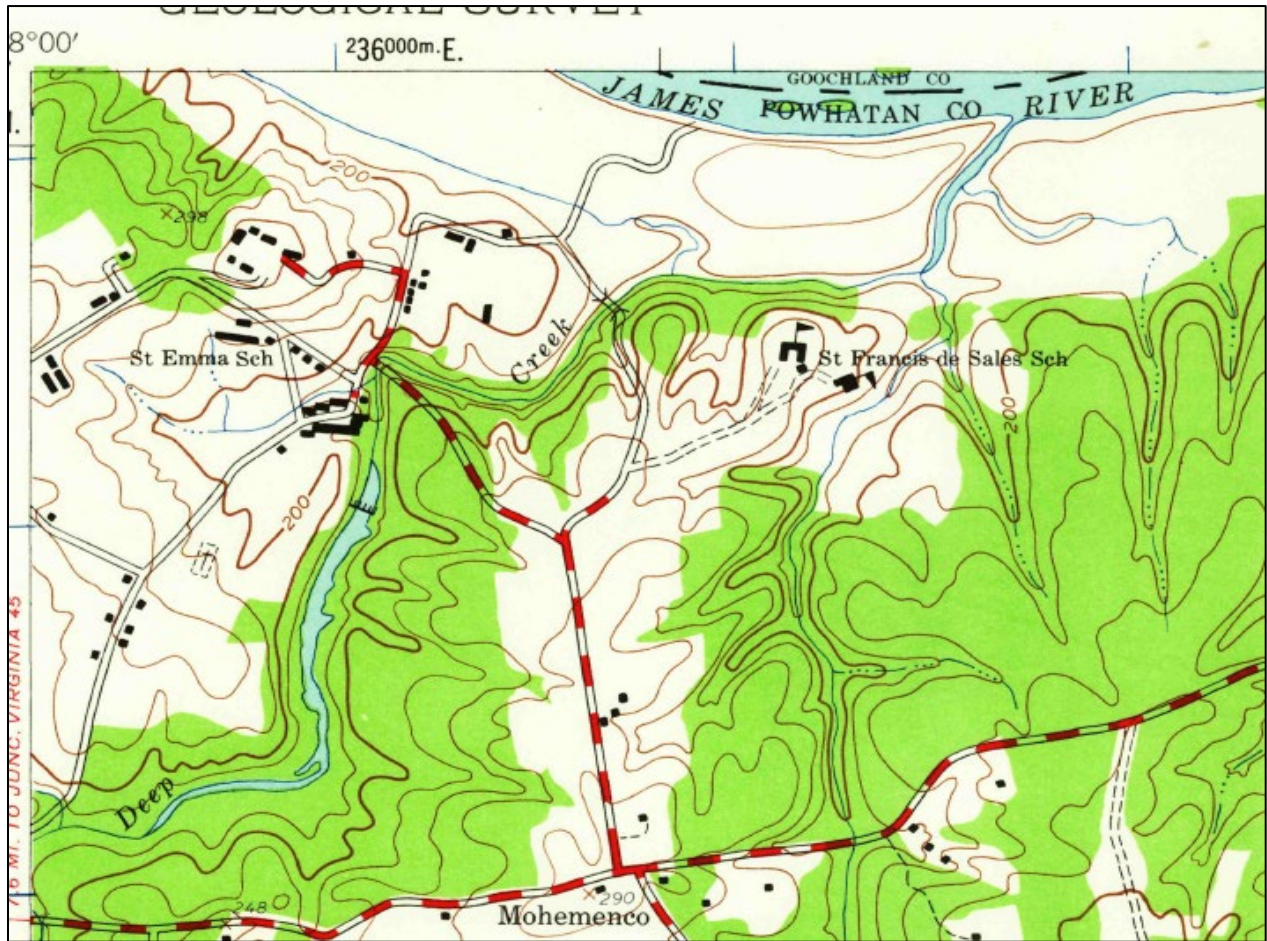


Figure 25. Powhatan Quadrangle topographic map, mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey, 1966.

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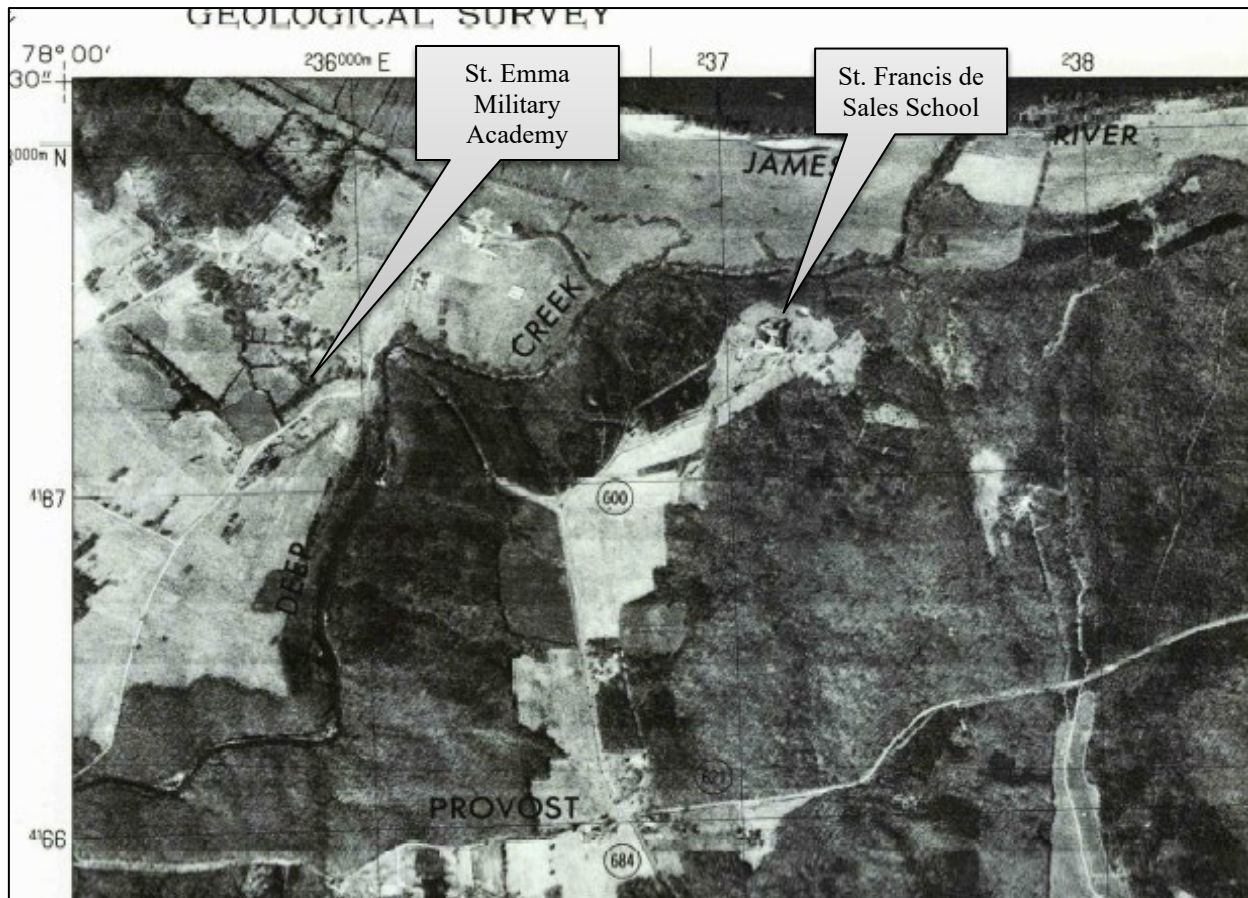


Figure 26. Powhatan Quadrangle aerial view, produced and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, 1979.

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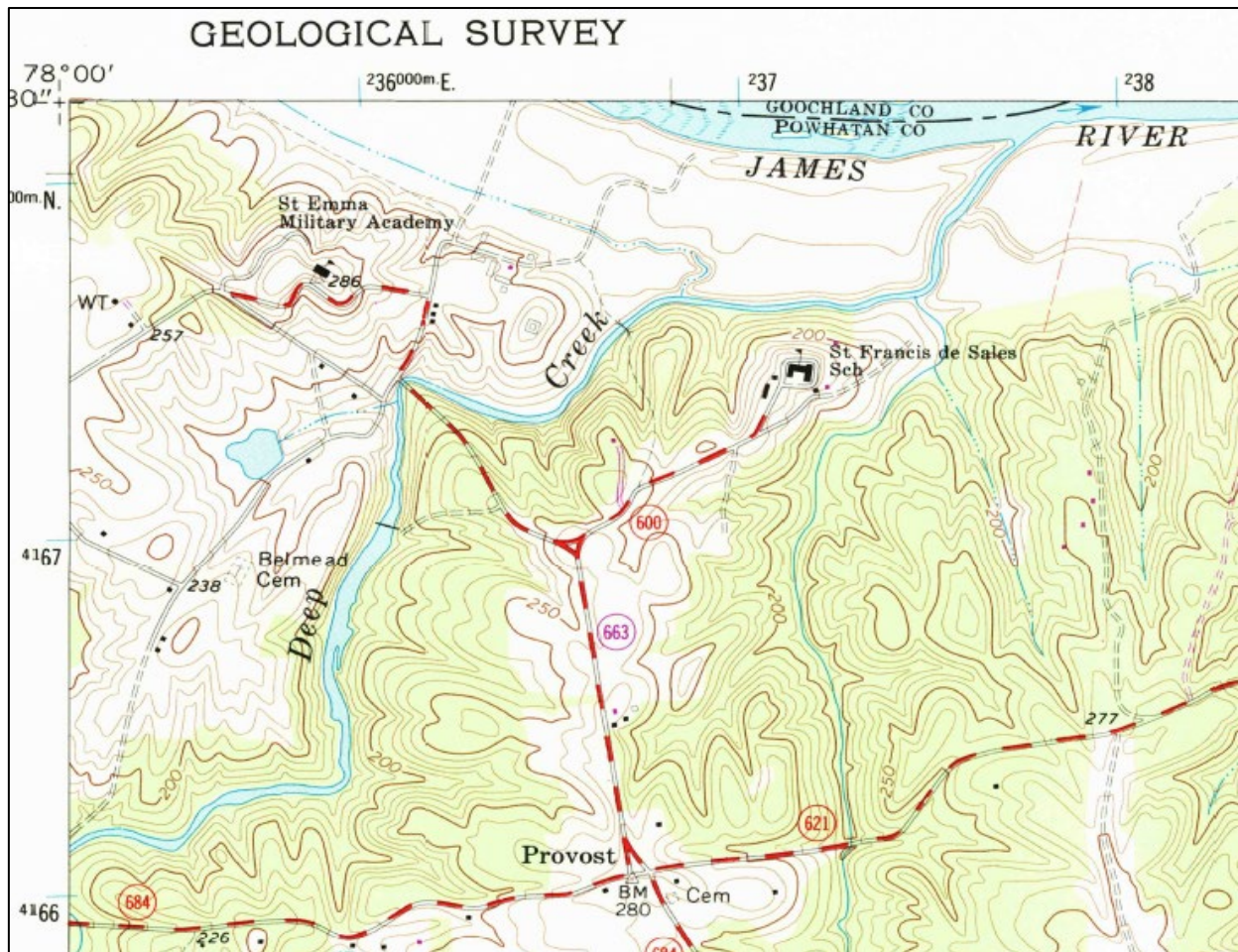


Figure 27. Powhatan Quadrangle topographic map, mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey, 1966, photorevised 1987.

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Figure 28. March 1994 Aerial View of Belmead (Google Earth Pro)

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Figure 29. December 2002 Aerial View of Belmead (Google Earth Pro).

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Figure 30. Powhatan Quadrangle topographic map, produced by the United States, 2019.

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Figure 31. 2024 Aerial view of Belmead (Google Earth Pro).

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With regard to Belmead's extant architectural resources built by enslaved people, they include the c. 1845 main house, c. 1841 granary, c. 1840 stone single-arch bridge, c. 1840 stone wall, and two pairs of 1857 stone grate markers. According to 1859 and 1860 "inventories of negroes" included with John Hartwell Cocke's papers at the University of Virginia, enslaved men at Belmead who were skilled in the building trades included Edward, head carpenter, Charleston, Frederick, Allen, and Anderson, all of whom were carpenters; Alfred, Beverly, Junius, Armsted, John, and Nimrod, who were stonemasons, Armistead and Beverly, who were blacksmiths, John, a striker, Collin, a wheelwright. In an 1860 inventory for Belmead itself, the following outbuildings, all of which had been built since 1848, were noted: a new stone barn and "machine," a stone stable, stone cattle sheds, new "quarters" for enslaved persons, a manager's house, shops, a bridge across a tributary to Deep Creek, roads, and ditches. The 1860 "inventory of negroes" listed Sylvanus and William, who were ditchers, and likely were engaged in building roads, including one that led to a bridge on the plantation.⁴⁰

One of only two documented Early Gothic Revival plantation mansions in Virginia, today the main house (072-0049) at Belmead is a testament to the skills of the enslaved people who erected it. The bricks were made on site, the stone was quarried locally, locally-sourced lumber was used for framing, and African American artisans built the towering edifice to Cocke's specifications and architect Alexander Jackson Davis's romantic design. The dwelling's architectural style is significant with regard to Belmead's agriculture, as architectural historian Daniel Bluestone argued in his article examining Cocke's intentions:

Cocke wanted his buildings to form a new and visually compelling relationship to his land, to "harmonize" well with the "features of the landscape." The stakes were very high because through the Belmead design he also aimed to harmonize himself with history, place, family, and his slaves. In the broader context, he built Belmead imagining the possibility of reconciling the nation to an agricultural system based not on independent yeomen farmers but on chattel slavery.⁴¹

Erection of the main house required years to complete, in part because the enslaved workers slowed their work as an act of resistance, or, as Cocke himself phrased the matter in a letter to his father, due to "a specimen of the rascally contrivance of our negroes to throw away time when not constantly watched & directed."⁴² In other words, Cocke's vision for using Belmead to prove the efficacy of his theories was challenged from the beginning by the people he enslaved.

⁴⁰ "Inventory – Beldale Plantation, Arthur's Creek Plantation, Rose Creek Plantation, Pea Hill Plantation, Meherrin, and Belmead: Slave, Stock, and Implement Inventories for Pea Hill, Belmead, Rose Creek, Arthurs Creek, and Meherrin," John Hartwell Cocke, papers, MSS 640, Box 159.

⁴¹ Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 145.

⁴² Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 158. Enslaved people deployed numerous tactics to resist enslavement, such as working slowly, misplacing or damaging tools or equipment, producing shoddy work, feigning illness, working slowly, and secreting items in concealed subfloor storage pits to conceal items ranging from tools and weapons to foodstuffs and valued personal items. In personal ways, enslaved people resisted by using a given name among their kinship network rather than the name assigned to them at birth by an enslaver, by entering marriage (despite that state law did not recognize marriages of enslaved people), by concealing messages in songs

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Additional extant architectural works by enslaved African American workers are a distinctive granary, a stone bridge and stone walls, and two pairs of gate markers. The picturesque granary (072-5064), built in 1841, is located on the west side of Deep Creek in a large, open agricultural area down the hill and west of the main house. Built into a slope, the three-story, T-plan, timber-frame and stone building has a steeply-pitched cross-gable slate roof. The facade features a pedimented portico entry with a stone deck and four round stone columns, a decorative feature unusual for a building intended for utilitarian use. Similar to the main house, however, the design marries Cocke's romanticism with his plantation's agricultural output.

Another example of the skilled stonework at Belmead is the c. 1840, stone, single-arch bridge (072-0049-0046) that crosses Licking Creek near the stream's intersection with Deep Creek, northeast of the St. Francis de Sales School campus. The bridge features stone of a variety of shapes and sizes laid in courses. The arch is built of even-sized, square-cut stones, similar to a Syrian arch, and secured with mortar. The side walls of the bridge are constructed of dry-laid, uncut rubble of varying sizes. Approximately 185 years of age, the bridge has not collapsed despite many years of neglect, a testament to the skill of its builders. Nearby is a c. 1840 wall (072-0049-0044) built of dry-stacked, rubble stone that appears to mark the location of a road that once led to the bridge. The bridge and road were needed to allow transport of Belmead's enslaved workers, tools, and agricultural products across Licking Creek, presumably to and from the neighboring Mount Pleasant plantation that Philip St. George Cocke also owned.⁴³

Two sets of paired stone gate markers that date to 1857 also are extant on the property. The east gate markers are located on the west side of Deep Creek at the property's main entrance from Cartersville Road, while the west gate markers (072-0049-0059) are located on the west side of Deep Creek at a secondary entrance and flank an overgrown driveway that enters the property from Cartersville Road. The four markers are almost identical in appearance, each consisting of a single stone beveled to a point at the top. For each pair, one marker is inscribed with an "18" and the other with a "57;" an iron pintle is located on one stone, while the other has a hole, likely marking where a gate once was attached.

Equally demonstrative of Belmead's significance in the areas of Agriculture and Ethnic Heritage: African American is a cemetery (DHR #072-5062) where enslaved persons who worked the

and folk tales, by passing messages to neighboring plantations via enslaved people whose routine work took them to other properties, by holding secret religious meetings where they could worship as they saw fit, and by keeping track of family members who had been taken or sold away by enslavers. Resistance also included sabotaging crops, theft, arson, and running for freedom. See Courtney Ebersohl, "Religion and Resistance in Enslaved Communities," Fall 2017, in the John Henning Woods Online Exhibit, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, Virginia Tech, <https://civilwar.vt.edu/religion-and-resistance-in-enslaved-communities/>; and "Slave Resistance," The George Washington Presidential Library at Mount Vernon, no date, <https://www.mountvernon.org/library/digitalhistory/digital-encyclopedia/article/slave-resistance/>.

⁴³ Current aerial photographs show traces of a road that appears to have extended between Belmead's core across Licking Creek into Mount Pleasant, but it is not known if this road dates to the plantation era or if it may date to a later period, such as the roughly 70+ years when St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute and St. Francis de Sales School for Girls were in operation.

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extensive fields and maintained the plantation's buildings, structures, and grounds are buried. The cemetery is located several yards west of Deep Creek in what is today a large, rectangular, open area west of Belmead's main driveway from Cartersville Road. The site's precise location coordinates are 37.6130453 north and -77.9950971 west. Northwest of the cemetery is a line of mature trees and farmland surrounds the site. The burials are marked with a variety of headstone types with dates ranging from at least as early as 1853 to as late as 1929. The grave marker types include wood crosses, short, rectangular stones (often next to a wooden cross), and arched granite headstones. Although there is no border around the perimeter of the site, the entrance to the cemetery, which is several yards away near the road, is marked with an iron cross and a modern sign that says "Historic Cemetery." The names and dates of at least some of those interred here are inscribed on a cemetery plaque (Figure 32).

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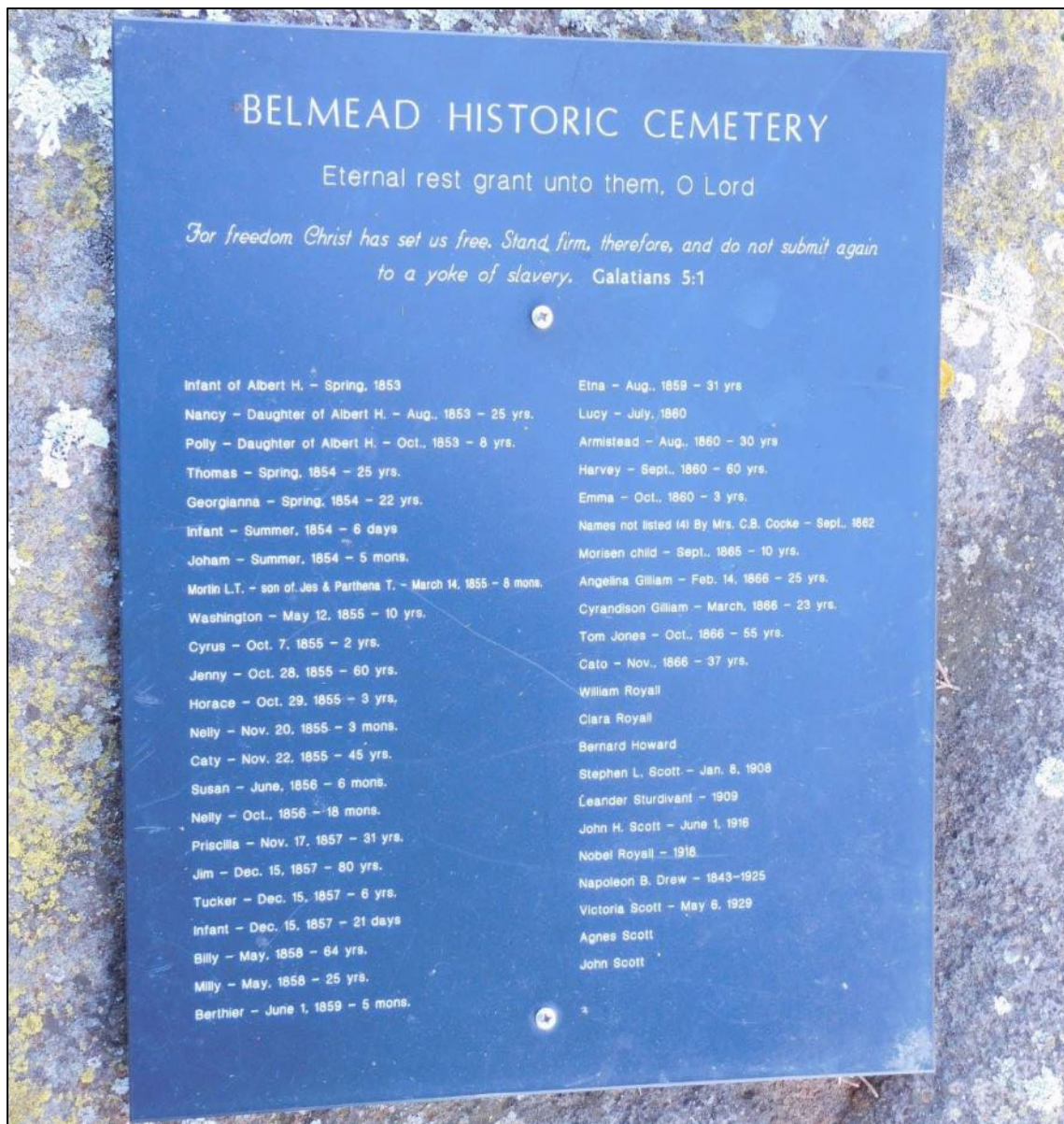


Figure 32. Plaque listing the names and death dates of the persons interred at the Slave Cemetery at Belmead (Image Source: Commonwealth Preservation Group, 2024).

Criterion A – Ethnic Heritage: African American; Education; Social History

As part of the current project to increase Belmead's nominated boundary, Ethnic Heritage: African American is added to the property's VLR and NRHP listings at the statewide level of significance. The property's national significance in the areas of Education and Social History was established in the 1969 nomination, and the contexts for these areas are further expanded upon below.

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Founding of St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College and St. Francis de Sales School for Girls ⁴⁴

Philip St. George Cocke's eldest son, John Bowdoin Cocke, inherited Belmead upon his father's death in 1861. After the Civil War, he continued its farming, now with a paid workforce that included at least some of the African Americans who had been emancipated during the war. By the early 1880s, the former plantation's area had decreased to approximately 1,600 acres. Increasing debts eventually forced J. B. Cocke to sell the property to Richard Meeche. It is assumed that Meeche continued the farming operation at Belmead throughout his tenure. ⁴⁵

In 1893, when Colonel Edward Morrell and Louise Drexel Morrell purchased Belmead, the sprawling property reportedly included 1,642 acres, acquired at the price of \$28,000 cash. ⁴⁶ The property continued to be farmed through the early 1970s, primarily by students at the private Catholic school for African American male youths that the Morrells founded in 1895. The school, originally known as St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College and later as St. Emma Military Academy, is discussed below. Topographic maps and aerial views recorded between 1943-2024 illustrate the property's stability due to the mid-20th century operations of St. Emma Military Academy and to the lack of redevelopment since the school closed up to the recent past. Consequently, the property's integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association with regard to its multiple areas of significance have been maintained up to the present.

⁴⁴ The founding dates of St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College and of St. Francis de Sales School for Girls are reported inconsistently in some secondary sources, such as newspaper and journal articles. Many sources erroneously state that St. Francis de Sales School was established in 1895 or 1896 and that St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College was founded in 1899. The correct names for St. Emma also are not reported consistently. The school originally was called St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College, then was known as St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute, and finally as St. Emma Military Academy. For St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College, the school's 1912 and 1928 prospectuses are considered to be authoritative sources on the school's founding date and original name. For the purposes of this nomination, the original name and founding date for St. Francis de Sales School for Girls are based on information found in historic record collections of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacramenta and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Adding to the confusion is that many historic sources state that the schools were located in "Rockcastle" or "Rock Castle," which was the name for a plantation across the James River from Belmead in Goochland County. Rock Castle occupies a high rock bluff along the river's north bank. According to the 1912 and 1928 prospectuses for St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College, "Rock Castle" was the post office that served the school. Some sources also identify the schools as being located at "Belmead-on-the-James," including the 1912 and 1928 prospectuses for St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College, but this was not, as far as is known to date, part of either school's official name. On historic maps of Powhatan County, the named community nearest to Belmead was Mohemenco, later renamed Provost, a short distance to the south.

⁴⁵ "This agreement this 30th day of September 1882 between John B. Cocke on the one part and Richard Meeche on other part," handwritten document (incomplete), at the University of Virginia Albert and Shirley Smalls Special Collection Library, in the John Hartwell Cocke papers, MSS 640, Box 178.

⁴⁶ "An 1893 contemporary clipping from a newspaper – probably Richmond – of the sale of Belmead the home of Philip St. George Cocke by the mortgage holder Edward Honeywinckel," at the University of Virginia Albert and Shirley Smalls Special Collection Library, Miscellaneous Papers Relating to Philip St. George Cocke and "Belmead," MSS 2433-an. Some secondary sources erroneously state that Katharine Drexel purchased Belmead in 1893 or 1894.

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Louise Drexel Morrell and Edward de Veaux Morrell

Louise Bouvier Drexel was born in Philadelphia to Francis Anthony Drexel and Emma Bouvier Drexel on October 2, 1863. Louise was the youngest of Francis Drexel's three daughters; Catherine and Elizabeth were born to Francis and his first wife, Hannah Langstroth Drexel. Today, Louise Drexel Morrell is somewhat overshadowed by the renown of her sister, who, upon taking vows as a nun, changed her name to Katharine and was canonized in 2000. All of the Drexel sisters, however, shared a commitment to philanthropy instilled in them by Francis and Hannah Drexel. When Francis Drexel died in 1885, he bequeathed enormous fortunes to each of his daughters. In 1888, Elizabeth Drexel Smith established St. Francis Industrial School for Boys in Pennsylvania; upon Elizabeth's sudden passing in 1890, Louise became the school's major financial supporter. She also established the Drexmoor, which provided a home for St. Francis alumni who were working in Philadelphia. In 1914, after the Salesians of Don Bosco, a Catholic organization dedicated to aiding working-class youth, were given the Drexmoor, Louise Drexel continued her sponsorship.⁴⁷

Louise Drexel married Edward de Veaux Morrell (1863-1917) on January 18, 1889. A native Philadelphian, Morrell was a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and went on to make a name for himself through his leadership of the Pennsylvania National Guard, including service in the Spanish-American War. His business interests included steamship, railroad, and streetcar lines and he served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1899-1901. As actively engaged in philanthropic works as Louise Drexel Morrell, Edward was particularly interested in the Boy Scout movement and military preparatory schools.⁴⁸ Louise Drexel, meanwhile, devoted herself to a host of charitable institutions, including those founded by her sister Katharine Drexel. She reportedly would "spend her days answering correspondence from the large number of charities she helped support and overseeing the affairs of St. Joseph's and St. Emma's Industrial Schools... During the [Great] Depression she distributed food and clothing to the needy and funded a soup kitchen."⁴⁹ Louise Morrell also was an outspoken advocate for civil rights of Black Americans. In January 1934, she "vigorously condemned" the racial terror tactic of lynching Black men and women, "sometimes on mere hearsay," and declared that lynching was a "hideous blot upon our American civilization."⁵⁰ Also in 1934, an article in *The Nebraska Register* reported on the assorted schools for Black children then being operated by the Catholic church. St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute was cited as one of the two largest such schools in the country, alongside St. Joseph's School in Clayton, Delaware. St. Emma also was among the 45 four-year high schools then in operation. While acknowledging that progress was hindered due to financial limitations, Louise Morrell's continued personal financing for St. Emma was acknowledged.⁵¹ Into the 1940s, newspaper reporting on special events at St. Emma Military Academy noted Louise Morrell's attendance, demonstrating her continued interest in the

⁴⁷ "The Other Drexel: Louise Drexel Morrell," Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, April 9, 2010, <https://chrc-phil.org/the-other-drexel-louise-drexel-morrell/>.

⁴⁸ "Col. Edw. Morrell, Noted Figure Here, Dies in Colorado," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, September 3, 1917, p. 1, 4.

⁴⁹ "The Other Drexel: Louise Drexel Morrell," Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, April 9, 2010, <https://chrc-phil.org/the-other-drexel-louise-drexel-morrell/>.

⁵⁰ "Lynching Condemned by Catholic Laywoman," *The Catholic Advance*, January 6, 1934, p. 3.

⁵¹ "Church Has Many Schools in America for Negroes," *The Nebraska Register*, August 19, 1934, p. 1.

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school's operations throughout her life. When she died in November 1945, Louise left the bulk of her estate to St. Emma, another indication of her enduring concern about the cause of education for young Black men in Virginia.⁵²

Establishment of St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College

After purchasing Belmead in 1893, reportedly at the urging of Katharine Drexel, the Morrells established St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College. Architectural historian Daniel Bluestone suggested that the acquisition of Belmead held symbolic value for Drexel and the Morrells, as one of Virginia's wealthiest plantations was converted for use as a school serving Black children. St. Emma also was one of the first high schools serving Black students to be established in Virginia. "Training schools," which typically offered classes through tenth grade began to be built in Virginia during the 1910s-1920, largely as a result of private philanthropy and persistent advocacy of Black communities, accredited four-year high schools for Black children remained a rarity until after World War II. Certainly, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, who comprised most of the faculty, hoped that their students would absorb the religious education they received as much as their other experiences and become "lay teachers" who lived according to Christian values throughout their lives.⁵³

The school is thought to have been their first foray into providing educational opportunities to African Americans in the former Confederacy. Although Virginia's 1870 constitution, adopted as a requirement for reentry to the United States, mandated a statewide public education system, schools were racially segregated. Those for Black and Native American children received a small fraction of the tax dollars expended on schools for White students. The Morrells were among a variety of wealthy northerners who took interest in improving conditions for African Americans in Virginia and throughout the South. During the early 20th century, Booker T. Washington convinced Julius Rosenwald to partner with the Tuskegee Institute on a rural school construction fund that built more than 5,500 schools across the South, including 381 in Virginia. Around the same time, Washington also assisted Anna T. Jeanes with establishing the Negro Rural School Fund (also known as the Jeanes Fund) to pay salaries for African American teachers and John D. Rockefeller created the General Education Board, which funded agricultural educational programs. St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College, therefore, was a forerunner to these more broadly organized programs.

⁵² "Mrs. Morrell Bequeaths Sum to St. Emma's," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, November 21, 1945, p. 7. The extent to which Louise Morrell's civil rights advocacy reached rural Virginia, where St. Emma was located, is not known. Throughout research for this additional documentation, no reports of racial terrorism at St. Emma were found; such incidents, however, were not always reported in local White-owned newspapers. Black-owned newspapers often did include reporting on terrorist attacks but no such stories concerning St. Emma were found. Note that progress with digitization of Black-owned newspapers has been erratic, making it difficult to research this topic online.

⁵³ Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 164-165; Amanda Bresie, *Veiled Leadership: Katharine Drexel, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and Race Relations* (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2023), p. 157.

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Katharine Drexel

Katharine (née Catherine Marie) Drexel was the second American to be canonized by the Roman Catholic Church.⁵⁴ She was born on November 26, 1858, in Philadelphia to Francis Anthony Drexel and Hannah Langstroth Drexel. Her mother died a month after her birth and the infant Catherine and her older sister, Elizabeth, were sent to live with their uncle, Anthony J. Drexel, for two years. Francis Drexel married Emma Bouvier in 1860 and the girls returned to the family home in Philadelphia. The couple's daughter, Louise, was born in 1863. By all accounts, Catherine and her sisters were taught from an early age to be concerned for the wellbeing of others. Devout Catholics, the Drexels donated millions of dollars to various philanthropic causes, routinely opened their family home to provide food, clothing, medicine, and funds to people in need of assistance, and lent their financial support to missions located on Native American reservations in the American West. Through these experiences, Catherine developed an early interest in religious service. The Reverend James O'Connor, who she met through his missionary work in the West, was an important spiritual advisor for her until his death in 1890. Catherine made her social debut in 1879 but her stepmother contracted cancer shortly thereafter and Catherine nursed her for three years. Francis Drexel died suddenly in 1885. In his will, he left 10 percent of his multimillion-dollar estate to more than two dozen charitable institutions and the balance to be divided equally among his three daughters. In an effort to protect his daughters from fortune hunters, he stipulated that his daughters controlled their inheritances and, should any of them die without issue, their estates were to be reverted to his own estate and the remaining funds donated entirely to charities. Both Elizabeth and Louise married, and Elizabeth died in 1890 during childbirth. For several years after her father's death, Catherine devoted her energies to philanthropic causes while weighing her calling to serve.⁵⁵

A widely reported narrative of Catherine Drexel's decision to become a nun is that, in 1885, she first asked her longtime spiritual advisor, the Reverend James O'Connor (later Bishop of Omaha), for guidance. Complying with his recommendation to meditate on her calling, she devoted several years to philanthropic activities, primarily with the intent of aiding Native Americans in the western states. In 1887-1888, Catherine and both of her sisters, Elizabeth and Louise, joined O'Connor and Monsignor Joseph Stephan, Director of the Catholic Bureau of Indian Missions, to tour several reservations. The first school Catherine founded was the St. Catherine Indian School in Santa Fe in 1887. After a private audience in Rome with Pope Leo XIII, Catherine decided to become a novitiate. O'Connor recommended that she join the Sisters of Mercy with the understanding that, after two years, she would found a new order that would

⁵⁴ The first American to be canonized was Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821) in 1959.

⁵⁵ Numerous articles describing Katharine Drexel's early life are online. Much of their content appears to be based on obituaries that were written by stringer journalists for distribution through news services, all published shortly after her death in 1955, such as; "Drexel Heiress, Founder of Church Order, Dies at 96," *The [Charlottesville, Virginia] Daily Progress*, March 4, 1955, p. 11; "'Rich Pauper,' Nun Foundress Buried Tuesday," *The [Omaha] True Voice*, March 11, 1955, p. 1; "Mother Drexel Gave Millions to Missions," *The [Wichita, Kansas] Catholic Advance*, March 11, 1955, p. 7; "Nun's \$1,000-a-Day Income 'Used for Good and for God,'" *The [Waterloo, Iowa] Courier*, March 29, 1955, p. 18; Frank Burke, "Woman Gave Away Her Wealth to Serve Humanity as Nun," *The Portsmouth (Virginia) Star*, March 27, 1955, Section C, p. 9; and Peter Binzen, "Gave Away \$1,000 a Day," *The American Weekly* supplement to the *Buffalo [New York] Courier Express*, May 15, 1955, p. 11. The biographical sources used for these articles are not known at this time.

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allow her, using her personal wealth, to undertake the charitable endeavors she chose, rather than being subject to the Catholic hierarchy. Upon receiving the habit, Catherine became Mary Katharine and, as planned, founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People in 1893.⁵⁶

Katharine and thirteen sisters immediately embarked upon the educational projects that would be the primary focus of the order for more than a century. Katharine's early experience with the St. Francis Indian School in Santa Fe informed her approach to establishing schools for Native American children. During the 1890s, the federal government was still engaged in an organized effort to eradicate Native American tribes and assimilate Indians into "mainstream" society. Among the tactics used was the forced removal of Native American children from their families and reservations to attend boarding schools at locations hundreds of miles away.⁵⁷ The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament built schools on reservation lands and nuns who taught at the school learned Native languages in order to communicate with their students more effectively. Katharine also funded the activities of friars of St. John the Baptist Province of the Order of Friars Minor on Navajo reservations.

Katharine Drexel's prodigious energies resulted in a nationwide network of missions, schools, and charitable organizations almost entirely focused on serving Native Americans and Black Americans. The following properties that have an association with Katharine Drexel are listed in the National Register of Historic Places: Xavier University Main Building, Convent, and Library, New Orleans, Louisiana; St. Elizabeth's Convent, Bucks County, Pennsylvania; Our Lady of the Assumption School, Lafayette County, Louisiana; Rosemont, Powhatan County, Virginia; St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Wilmington, Delaware; Holy Family Cathedral, Rectory, and School, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Our Lady of Grace Church, St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana; Holy Family Mission, Glacier County, Montana; Additionally, the St. Joseph Indian Normal School in Jasper County, Indiana, is directly associated with Katharine Drexel, but the outdated 1973 nomination does not mention this aspect. Drexel provided funding during its eight years of operation; the building that housed the school was renamed Drexel Hall and converted to a dormitory for male students attending St. Joseph's College.⁵⁸ Given the number of schools, chapels, and other institutions funded by Drexel during her lifetime, there are likely other properties listed in the National Register that have similar associations.

⁵⁶ Op. cit.

⁵⁷ The federal boarding school system operated for more than a century and is now widely known for the flagrant abuses committed against Native children and their tribes. See the U.S. Department of the Interior's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative at <https://www.doi.gov/priorities/strengthening-indian-country/federal-indian-boarding-school-initiative>. After her 1880s experiences with the St. Catherine Indian School in Santa Fe and with the St. Joseph's Indian Normal School, a federal Indian boarding school, Katharine Drexel appears to have avoided further involvement with schools such as these. Instead, she preferred to use her personal wealth to pay for construction of schools for Native children on their home reservations and to staff the schools with sisters in her order, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament.

⁵⁸ Ian Walls, "St. Joseph's Indian Normal School," Clio: Your Guide to History, May 7, 2017, <https://theclio.com/entry/39168>.

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Katharine Drexel suffered a heart attack and/or possibly a stroke in 1935 that forced her to curtail her own activities, but she continued to take close interest in the operations of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and its many responsibilities. She spent the last twenty years of her life at the St. Elizabeth's Convent, the motherhouse for her order, in Pennsylvania. Upon her death on March 3, 1955, what was left of her personal fortune reverted to her father's estate and, according to the terms of his will, was quickly disbursed to an assortment of charitable organizations he had named. Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament are credited with founding approximately 63 schools throughout the country and 50 missions for Native Americans in 16 states, all staffed by 500 members of her order. Widely lauded for her devotion to service, Katharine Drexel was beatified in 1987 and, in 2000, was canonized a saint by Pope John Paul II.⁵⁹

Establishment of St. Francis de Sales School for Girls

In 1894, Katharine Drexel and the Morrells formed the Drexel-Morrell partnership to purchase Mount Pleasant, a former plantation adjacent to Belmead, for the purpose of establishing St. Francis de Sales School, which opened in 1899. Primarily intended to provide educational opportunities to African American women, the school also accepted Native American women. According to reports issued by the U.S. Department of the Interior, St. Francis de Sales School was not part of the federal Indian boarding school system. At this time, it is not known how many Native women attended the school. Secondary sources report that over 5,000 young women were educated at St. Francis de Sales School over the roughly 70-year period of its existence. Katharine Drexel hired architect C.L. Dodd to design and oversee construction of the school's main campus building and a chapel. The school was located at the former Mt. Pleasant plantation, which was among Philip St. George Cocke's extensive landholdings prior to the Civil War. Mount Pleasant stood east of Deep Creek, adjacent to the Belmead property. The antebellum buildings at Mount Pleasant are not mentioned in records found to date and are presumed to have been lost at some point between Cocke's death in 1861 and the mid-1890s.⁶⁰ Dodd designed a huge, Gothic Revival main school building with a U-shape footprint that enclosed a grassy courtyard. As did students at St. Emma, the girls attending St. Francis de Sales School initially arrived at the Rock Castle Station in Goochland County via the James River Division of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. Students reached St. Emma's campus on the

⁵⁹ "Drexel Heiress, Founder of Church Order, Dies at 96," *The [Charlottesville, Virginia] Daily Progress*, March 4, 1955, p. 11; "'Rich Pauper,' Nun Foundress Buried Tuesday," *The [Omaha] True Voice*, March 11, 1955, p. 1; "Mother Drexel Gave Millions to Missions," *The [Wichita, Kansas] Catholic Advance*, March 11, 1955, p. 7; "Nun's \$1,000-a-Day Income 'Used for Good and for God,'" *The [Waterloo, Iowa] Courier*, March 29, 1955, p. 18; Frank Burke, "Woman Gave Away Her Wealth to Serve Humanity as Nun," *The Portsmouth (Virginia) Star*, March 27, 1955, Section C, p. 9; and Peter Binzen, "Gave Away \$1,000 a Day," *The American Weekly* supplement to the *Buffalo [New York] Courier Express*, May 15, 1955, p. 11.

⁶⁰ A feature article that appeared in a local newspaper in 1965 reported, "While now a part of the Convent property and rebuilt during the Convent construction years, it still retains much of its original beauty. The wide veranda, the offices on either side of the main dwelling, and the massive oaks in the yard, have long been a familiar sight." This information has not been corroborated in other sources identified to date. See Peggy Palmore, "Powhatan County Old and New," *The Farmville Herald* Vol. 75 No. 92 (August 1965), p. 5A.

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Jefferson Ferry that traversed the James River between Rock Castle and the two schools in Powhatan County.⁶¹



Figure 33. Students and Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Francis de Sales School for Girls, July 24, 1899 (Image Source: Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, <https://www.katharinedrexel.org/timeline/st-francis-de-sales-rock-castle-virginia/>). The image depicts the courtyard on the rear side of the campus's main building.

Overview of St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College (1895-1928)

The St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College opened to students in January 1895. Located approximately 41 miles west of Richmond at the northern edge of Powhatan County, access to the school was via the James River Division of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. The Express, Telegraph, and Post Office was located at Rock Castle Station, north of the James River in Goochland County and opposite Belmead.⁶² Students reached St. Emma's campus via the

⁶¹ Robert A. Walker, *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Virginia: R.A. Walker Jr., 2006), p. 144.

⁶² A former plantation, Rock Castle, is located directly across the James River from Belmead.

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Jefferson Ferry.⁶³ The main house at Belmead was adapted for the school's use and a host of other buildings were erected to create a quadrangle. By 1912, the campus included executive offices, a chapel, a library, classrooms, agricultural hall, dining hall, kitchen, and dormitories, all built of stone in the Gothic Revival style. A recreation and play hall, and an assortment of agricultural outbuildings, many of which dated to the Cocke period of ownership, included grist- and sawmills, a wagon works with wheelwrighting, painting, finishing, upholstering, and carriage trimming shops, and carpenter, blacksmith, harness, tailor, and shoemaking shops, brought the campus's total number of buildings to 50.⁶⁴

The 1912 prospectus stated, "The College was founded for the exclusive benefit of the Colored Youth of the Southern States... to give colored young men a good common-school education, and to enable them to acquire a training in the modern scientific methods of agriculture, or in such mechanical trades as they may elect to follow."⁶⁵ Students had an array of trades from which to choose that were reflective of the period, when many traditional trades were being supplanted by newer technologies. Thus, the school offered wheelwrighting, blacksmithing, and carriage and wagon building training as well as opportunities to learn operation of steam and heating boilers, steam engines, pumps, gasoline-powered machines, grist-, saw-, and planing mills, and wood-working machinery. An elementary mechanical drawing class also was available. For agricultural training, the school's 1,500 acres, dairy, and livestock provided opportunities for students to learn the full range of modern farming methods, including truck farming, breeding of cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, and poultry, planting and crop management, and dairying. Finally, reflective of Edward Morrell's interest in military training, all of the students at St. Emma were members of a uniformed cadet corps.

The emphases on agricultural and trades education were reflective of the limited employment opportunities available to Black men in Virginia and other southern states during the Jim Crow

⁶³ The planned community of Jefferson originally stood a short distance east of Belmead at a bend on the James River. An "entry point for goods coming to Powhatan from across the river," the town was laid out during the early 19th century and, due to its ferry, thrived for decades. Improvement of land transportation, particularly the arrival of the railroad, led to the community's decline. At an unknown date, the town was relocated to the intersection of state routes 711 and 522. According to historic photos and recollections of alumni, the ferry continued to operate at least into the 1930s. A man known as "Uncle" Eddie James operated the ferry. James's father and grandfather had been born at Belmead prior to the Civil War. See *Powhatan County Historic Architectural Survey*, November 25, 1991, prepared by Tracerics, Washington DC, on file at the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, p. 21, https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/pdf_files/SpecialCollections/PO-008_PowhatanCounty_Historic_AH_Survey_1991_TRACERIES_report.pdf; Robert A. Walker, *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Virginia: R.A. Walker Jr., 2006), p. 144; and Heather Hope, "Honoring Black History: Legacy of nation's only Black military academy lives on," February 14, 2023, <https://www.wric.com/black-history-month/honoring-black-history-the-nations-only-black-military-academy-once-in-powhatan/>.

⁶⁴ *Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College*, Rock Castle P.O., Belmead-on-the-James Virginia, 1912, p. 3-4; Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p. 164.

⁶⁵ *Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College*, Rock Castle P.O., Belmead-on-the-James Virginia, 1912, p. 4, 6, 8.

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era of segregation, which began during the 1890s and persisted well into the 1960s.⁶⁶ Widespread discriminatory employment practices confined most Black men to menial jobs, often those that required the dirtiest and most dangerous work in industry, agriculture, and construction. By providing formal training in industrial and agricultural trades, administrators of schools such as St. Emma hoped to impart to Black students the skills necessary to become independent entrepreneurs and landowners with more control over their livelihoods. In 1921, St. Emma began an annual fair, the Belmead Fair, that included a parade of floats created by students from each trade program.

St. Emma's administrators, however, did not neglect other aspects of the students' education. The school's 30-piece brass band and 10-piece orchestra afforded students to learn to play a musical instrument. Literary, debate, dramatic, and musical societies offered students both entertainment and opportunities to become educated in the humanities, an exceedingly rare opportunity in much of the South. Sports teams and a recreation hall also were available to students.⁶⁷ Although St. Emma was a Catholic school, students of any denomination were admitted. To be admitted, students had to be at least 15 years old, meet minimum physical requirements, be "of good moral character," and have at least two references from respected adults in their community. The young man also was required to pay up front the cost of travel from the school back to his home and to put together a wardrobe of two complete sets of clothing, two pairs of shoes, and three pairs of socks. Students paid \$5 per month for room, board, basic medical care, and cadet uniforms, as well as monthly tuition that ranged from \$7 per month for the first year up to \$12 per month their third and fourth years. The monthly fees, but for \$2 cash, could be paid for through the student's labor, an option that was commonly offered at schools that served children of modest means. Students graduated upon completing final exams at the end of their fourth year, but a fifth year of more advanced instruction was available for students who were interested in continuing their education. Among the standards of behavior students were expected to meet was writing to their parent or guardian at least once per month. School officials also encouraged the student's family to take an active interest in their child's schooling.⁶⁸

In 1925, Archbishop Pietro Fumasoni-Biondi visited St. Emma and St. Francis de Sales School during celebrations of St. Emma's 30th anniversary. Louise Morrell attended the events as well. In addition to a mass celebrated by the Archbishop, activities included the fourth Belmead Fair, a military parade by the cadets, a play, and a reception and a dinner prepared by St. Francis

⁶⁶ The term "Jim Crow" originated with a racist 19th-century caricature that quickly became a pejorative epithet aimed at Black men. From the late-19th and early 20th century, "Jim Crow" was the appellation given to the segregation and disenfranchisement laws that were being enacted across the country, especially in the former Confederate states. Jim Crow segregation ended during the 1960s with the successes of the Long Civil Rights Movement, notably passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Voting Rights Act of 1965, and Fair Housing Act of 1968.

⁶⁷ *Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College*, Rock Castle P.O., Belmead-on-the-James Virginia, 1912, p. 8, 10.

⁶⁸ *Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College*, Rock Castle P.O., Belmead-on-the-James Virginia, 1912, p. 13, 15-17, 19-20.

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students. At this point, enrollment at St. Emma stood at 157 students, while St. Francis had 146 students.⁶⁹ Also during the mid-1920s, administrative staff at St. Emma began transitioning from the Brothers of the Christian Schools (who continued to teach classes and provide religious instruction) to lay staff, with A. J. Barrett as director, and the Holy Ghost Fathers, which included ordained priests and lay “brothers.”⁷⁰

The mid-1920s included expansion and modernization of St. Emma’s campus. Steam heat was brought to all of the buildings via a new pipeline from the central boiler. A new water main delivered water to two storage tanks that supplied potable water for indoor plumbing. A new powerhouse brought electricity to each of the buildings and replaced a gas works that had been built beneath the classroom building. The mill received a new diesel engine to replace its older steam-powered equipment. For the most part, St. Emma’s students and faculty completed the necessary work and turned the campus into an increasingly self-sufficient community.⁷¹

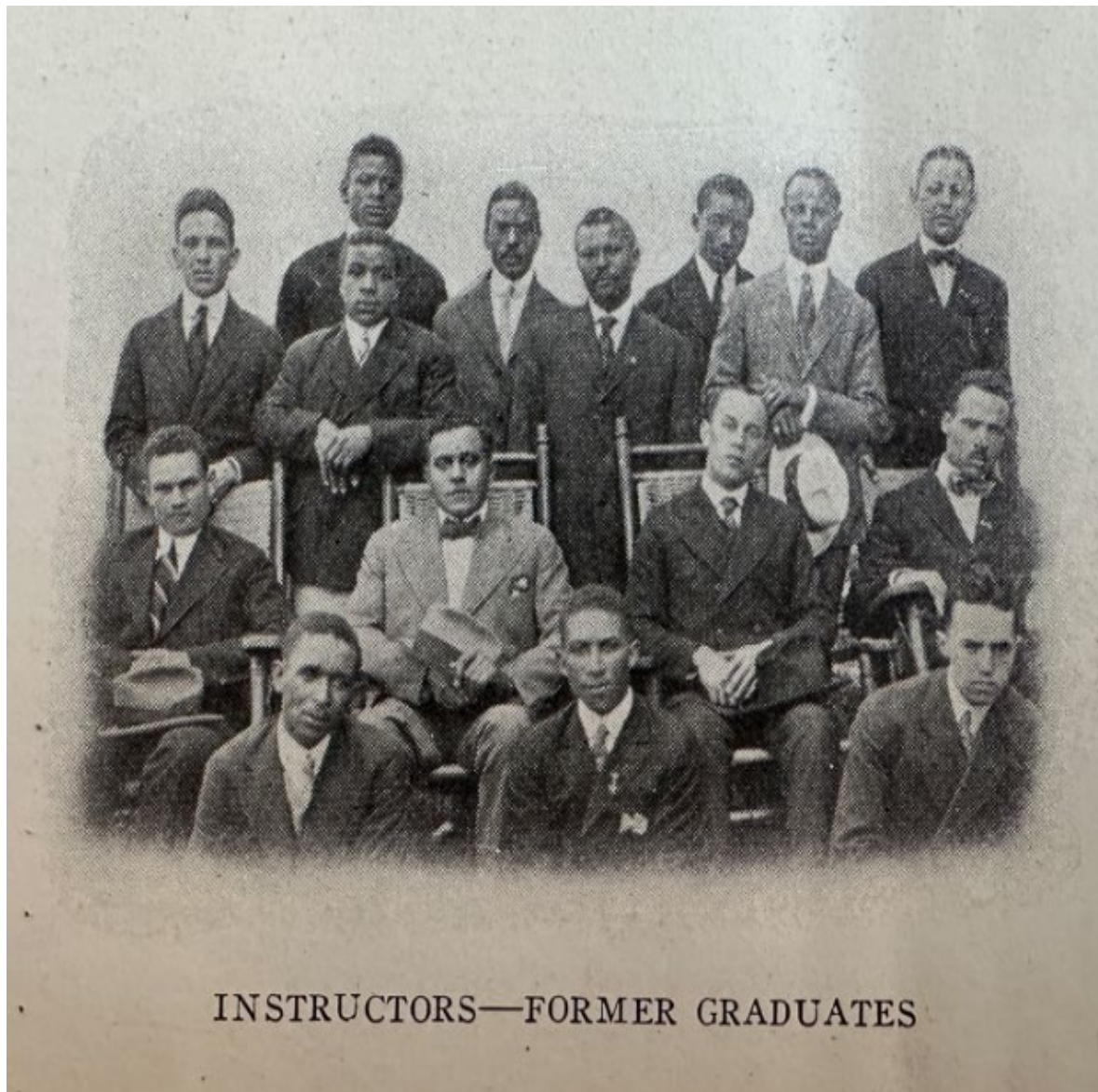
⁶⁹ “Apostolic Delegate Visits Colored Youth,” *The [Philadelphia] Catholic Standard and Times*, October 17, 1925, p. 9, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/community.35616546>.

⁷⁰ Robert A. Walker Jr., *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Va., privately published, 2006), p. 143; “Cardinal Consecrates Church for Colored at Rock Castle,” *The Catholic Standard and Times* Vol. 33 No. 52 (October 27, 1928), p. 1, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/community.35616704>; “Archabbot Koch Attends Dedication,” *The Latrobe (Pennsylvania) Bulletin*, November 4, 1933, p. 5.

⁷¹ Robert A. Walker Jr., *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Va., privately published, 2006), p. 143-144.

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*Figure 34. . Photo of St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College who then became instructors at the school
(Image Source: 1928 Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College).*

By 1928, when another prospectus for the school is available, St. Emma's stated acreage was 3,000 (at least some of which was leased) and approximately 50 buildings were extant, with the vast majority devoted to the agricultural and industrial educational opportunities the school offered. The main house was referred to as the Administration Building, while the dormitories occupied "imposing and commodious stone buildings."⁷² The chapel and refectory occupied a

⁷² *Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College*, Belmead-on-the-James, Rock Castle Post Office, Virginia, 1928, p. 4-5.

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stone building with Gothic Revival attributes, while the buildings adjacent to the main house were used for the students' societies, library, College Band and Orchestra, and Cadet Battalion, as well as for recreation. In addition to the wide assortment of shop buildings listed in the 1912 prospectus, the 1928 document lists a "a well-stocked commissary, ice making and filter plant, a water works and reservoir, a steam laundry, and numerous dwellings for instructors in the various industries."⁷³ A laboratory and germination house for agricultural experiments had been added as well. Coursework in basic bookkeeping and project estimating were included to aid students with becoming independent entrepreneurs. The faculty was comprised of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, who taught academic courses, and other faculty members who taught the agricultural and industrial trades courses; the latter included school alumni who had graduated within the past four years.⁷⁴

Also in 1928, Cardinal Dennis Joseph Dougherty, along with a delegation from Philadelphia, visited St. Emma to consecrate the newly completed St. Edward Chapel. Its design was inspired by a church Louis Drexel Morrell had seen on a trip to Europe, and she asked the instructors at St. Emma to draw up plans for a similar chapel to be erected at the school. St. Emma's students, under the direction of alumnus L. Dickerson, cut the needed lumber on the school's extensive acreage, quarried the stone from a riverside quarry while using steam-powered drills and cut the stone with chisels fabricated at the blacksmith shop, and dug the foundation using horse-drawn scoops. The students and instructors constructed the building, including the ironwork at the school's foundry. The finish carpentry was completed by students at St. Francis Industrial School in Pennsylvania, with which Louise Drexel had a longstanding association. Catholic dignitaries from Richmond, Washington DC, Philadelphia, Harrisonburg, and New York City assisted with the ceremony and celebration of mass. Students in St. Emma's choir provided music under the director of Mrs. A. J. Barrett. Katharine Drexel and James Gregg, president of Hampton Institute, along with school alumni, were among the many guests.⁷⁵

The school still operated grist-, flour, lumber, and sawmills and had a portable power sawmill that could be taken to woodlands owned or leased by the school. Although personal automobiles and trucks were rapidly replacing horsedrawn vehicles by this time, St. Emma continued to train students in traditional wagon works as well as care for horses and mules. The "Steward's Department" taught Cooking, Bread, Cake, and Fancy Baking classes, generally using the flour, vegetables, beef, poultry, and dairy products raised at St. Emma. Likewise, students operated a cannery that preserved surplus vegetables and fruits for later use. The steam laundry built since 1912 was staffed by student trainees, too. In a continuing effort to keep St. Emma as self-supporting as possible, Tailoring, Shoemaking, Harnessmaking, and other departments taught students the related skills and supplied individual students and the school at large with needed

⁷³ *Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College*, Belmead-on-the-James, Rock Castle Post Office, Virginia, 1928, p. 7.

⁷⁴ *Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College*, Belmead-on-the-James, Rock Castle Post Office, Virginia, 1928, p. 7-8, 10.

⁷⁵ "Cardinal Consecrates Church for Colored at Rock Castle," *The Catholic Standard and Times* Vol. 33 No. 52 (October 27, 1928), <https://jstor.org/stable/community.35616704>, p. 1 3; Robert A. Walker Jr., *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Va., privately published, 2006), p. 145.

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services. Students had options in the Carpentering and Building Department to learn carpentry and masonry construction, as well as pipe fitting, plumbing, and roofing with slate and metal. Students in the agricultural program now learned the foundation of breeding as well as caring for horses, beef and dairy cattle, sheep, and pigs, along with basic skills for constructing and repairing outbuildings, including garden houses and cold frames, and for mixing concrete, mixing and handling paint, and planning building projects, including reading blueprints.⁷⁶

A small number of scholarships were available to students participating in the agricultural programs. Tuition for all students was kept low, in large part due to the financial largesse of Louise and Edward Morrell and their network of supporters. The Cadet Corps at St. Emma had expanded and offered military preparatory training according to the U.S. Infantry Drill Regulations, which included maintenance of rifles and uniforms, obligations of citizenship, and different types of ceremonial activities. The cadets lived in a "barracks" style building rather than in dormitories with other students. The College Brass Band and Orchestra continued to function, offering students opportunities to learn instrumental music. Admission and graduation requirements had changed little since 1912, and St. Emma continued to offer students opportunities to participate in academic and arts societies, to play organized sports, and to continue their education with a year of post-graduate study. As in 1912, costs for provision of clothing, laundry service, room, and board continued to be charged at just \$2 cash per month, with an additional amount to be worked off by the student.⁷⁷

⁷⁶ *Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College*, Rock Castle Post Office, 1928, p. 11-14, 19-22.

⁷⁷ *Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College*, Rock Castle Post Office, 1928, p. 23-35.

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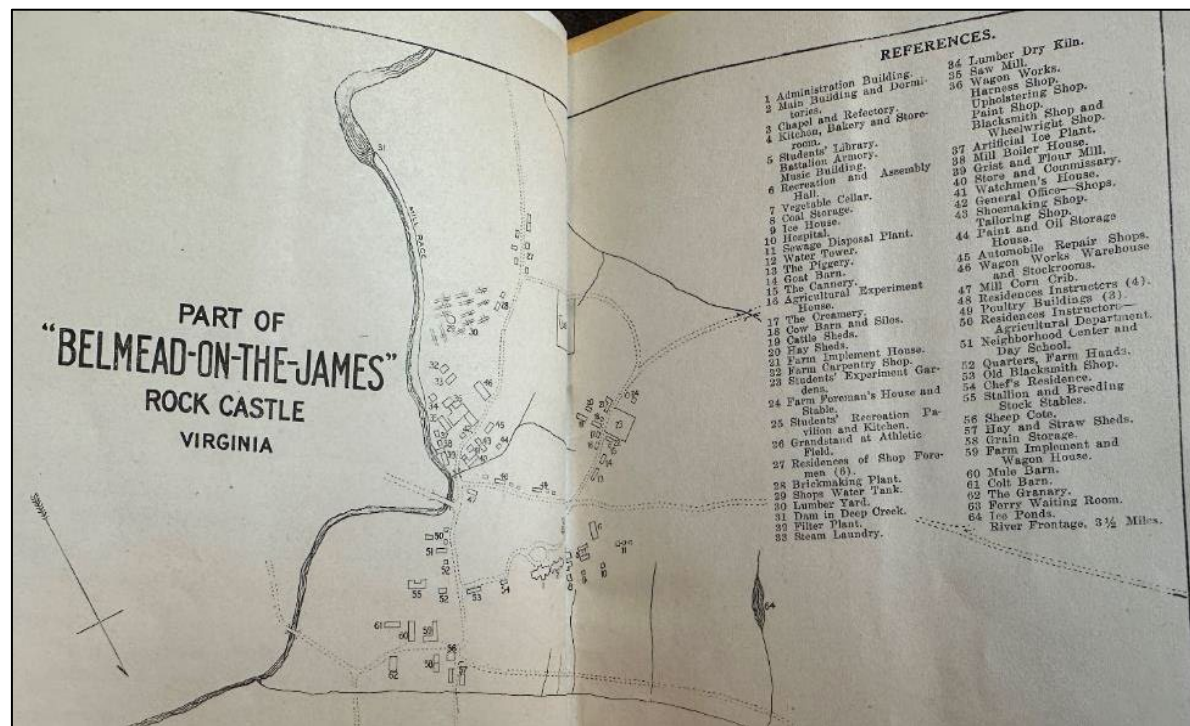


Figure 35. At top, photo of Belmead mansion-turned-Administration Building and, at bottom, map of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College campus (Image Source: 1928 Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College).

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Overview of St. Francis de Sales School (1899-c. 1930)

St. Francis de Sales School for Girls opened in 1899. For its first several decades of operation, the curriculum at St. Francis de Sales School followed an educational model advocated by Booker T. Washington, who emphasized that providing students with formal training in the employment fields that were available to them would create financial stability for Black families.⁷⁸ For young men, industrial and agricultural training, such as was offered at St. Emma, was considered appropriate. Due to widespread discrimination against their sex and race, employment options for African American women were even more limited. Positions as maids and cooks in private dwellings, and as laundresses and/or seamstresses working from their own home, often were the only options available, especially in rural areas. Even in urban settings where a larger assortment of employers were available, Black women had limited choices due to the endemic racism and sexism of the period. Virginia's booming tobacco centers, including Richmond, Petersburg, Danville, Martinsville, and Norfolk, sometimes hired women to work in tobacco processing plants, such as the American Cigar Factory in Norfolk. Regardless of the type of work, across all economic sectors wage rates were generally poor. In the hierarchy of compensation throughout the 20th century, White men generally received the highest pay, followed by Black men, White women, and, finally, Black women.⁷⁹ Therefore, the assortment of academic classes and training in domestic arts offered at schools for Black girls and young women were not necessarily intended to train them for paid employment. Instead, by having a grasp of academic subjects and expertise in domestic skills, Black women could be accomplished housewives and mothers, able to support their husbands and to raise their children in accord with the period's many feminine and domestic ideals.⁸⁰

In her book *Veiled Leadership: Katharine Drexel, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and Race Relations*, author Amanda Bresie examines the curriculum at St. Francis de Sales. At its opening in 1899, the year-round school offered classes from the elementary level through about 9th grade (or "junior high" in the parlance of the time). Black students from throughout the Southern states could apply for admission to the school; over time as the school's reputation spread, girls from Northern states also applied. Most had been high-achieving through elementary school but had no local options for continuing their education. Initially, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament did not charge fees of any kind, making it possible for students of minimal means to attend. When, eventually, fees began to be charged, similar to what was done at St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College, the costs were very low compared to other boarding schools, largely due to Katharine Drexel's ability to use her personal fortune for the school's operations. Grammar, writing, reading, math, "nature study," geography, and music comprised the academic courses.

⁷⁸ Robin Patton, "St. Francis de Sales Catholic Boarding School for Girls, Powhatan, Virginia, 1899-1970," June 19, 2022, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/18fc43c2f7404fe38c1c4bd6061a4f7e>.

⁷⁹ Estimating differences in wage rates is complicated by changes in data collection methodologies over time, as well as types of data collected, and varying approaches to statistical analyses. See Kenneth G. Dau-Schmidt and Ryland Sherman, "The Employment and Economic Advancement of African Americans in the Twentieth Century," Maurer School of Law, Indiana University, *Articles by Maurer Faculty*, 2013, <https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/facpub/1292>.

⁸⁰ Daniel Bluestone, "A.J. Davis's Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 71 No. 2 (June 2012), p.164.

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Students also received instruction in catechism and the Bible. During the afternoon, the girls took “industrial” classes such as “sewing, home nursing, laundry, and domestic arts and sciences.” A model dining room and laundry as might be found in a private dwelling, not a commercial setting, offered setting for students to practice their skills. They also routinely served multiple-course dinners to guests visiting the school.⁸¹

The mission of St. Francis de Sales School expanded quickly, with teacher training classes added in 1902 and high school classes two years later.⁸² Due to the racially segregated character of public schools in Virginia and throughout the South, training of Black women and men to assume teaching positions was prioritized in educational settings sponsored by philanthropists such as Katharine Drexel and the Morrells.⁸³ The highest demand was for elementary school teachers, as those schools were far more numerous than junior or senior high school classes. Virginia had vanishingly few upper-level schools for Black students during the early 20th century. The Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute in Virginia was founded in 1868 in part to train teachers, as provision of a statewide publicly-funded education system already was being planned; Virginia’s 1870 state constitution mandated establishment of such a system. Because St. Francis de Sales School, like the Hampton Institute, accepted students from beyond Virginia, both could train teachers to meet demand in other states, too. Women held the majority of teaching positions, especially for elementary grades, which may account for the reason that St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College did not also offer teacher training. The addition of high school classes placed St. Francis de Sales School far ahead of most of the public schools in Virginia, where education for Black students usually ended at 7th grade, if not earlier. Secondary students took classes in “English, rhetoric, composition, grammar, church history, Latin, algebra, geometry, general science, physiology, chemistry, ancient history, English history, modern history, and civics.”⁸⁴

In 1915, Thomas Jesse Jones, a Welsh-American who completed his doctorate at Columbia University and then worked at a New York City settlement house, visited St. Francis de Sales School during a research project on behalf of the private Phelps Stokes Fund and the federal Office of Education.⁸⁵ Various sources described Jones as an educator, a sociologist, a “specialist in the education of racial groups,” Jones supervised a survey of 748 Black schools, of which 635 were private high schools, and just 68 were public high schools and 27 were county

⁸¹ Amanda Bresie, *Veiled Leadership: Katharine Drexel, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and Race Relations* (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2023), p. 155.

⁸² Scot A. French et al., *Booker T. Washington Elementary School and Segregated Education in Virginia* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2007), p. 11.

⁸³ Just as students were segregated by race, most often teachers were as well. While a White teacher might work at a Black school, the reverse was never true.

⁸⁴ Amanda Bresie, *Veiled Leadership: Katharine Drexel, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and Race Relations* (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2023), p. 156; Mary Jackson et al., Julius Rosenwald High School, National Register nomination, August 5, 2023, https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/066-0075_Julius_Rosenwald_High_School_2023_NRHP_FINAL.pdf.

⁸⁵ The purpose of the Office of Education (forerunner to today’s U.S. Department of Education) was collection of statistics and other data about schools of all types across the country. See “An Overview of the U.S. Department of Education,” U.S. Department of Education, May 14, 2018, <https://www2.ed.gov/about/overview/focus/what.html/>.

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“training schools.”⁸⁶ Among the survey’s enduring contributions was documentation of the gross underinvestment in public schools for Black children across the country, which included the finding that, at the national level, per capita public school expenditures for White children stood at approximately \$10.06 while that for Black children was \$2.89. With regard to this finding, Virginia was not an exception, although the state’s relative poverty in comparison to other states is indicated by the expenditure of just \$3.78 per White child and \$1.98 per Black child; White students, in other words, received 50 percent more public funds than did Black students.⁸⁷

The Jones survey also found that higher-level educational opportunities beyond 7th grade almost exclusively were through privately-funded schools. Although the Great Migration of Black people from rural Southern states to industrialized Northern cities already was underway, Jones’s report emphasized the need for agricultural education to arm Black people with the skills necessary to prosper. By the time the Jones report was published, Booker T. Washington, founder of the Tuskegee Institute, had been arguing for industrial and agricultural educational opportunities for Blacks students for more than 35 years, and was a mission undertaken by the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College as well. Washington’s successes in this regard, including the creation of the aforementioned Jeanes Fund and Rosenwald Fund, as well as Tuskegee itself, likely informed Jones’s recommendations for improving educational opportunities for Black children.⁸⁸

Finally, on the basis that over 50 percent of teachers in Black schools themselves had completed six grades of formal education, Jones’s report recommended that teacher training at “junior” (or two-year) colleges should be bolstered. He used the Hampton Institute as a model to use for founding additional colleges for this purpose.⁸⁹ When Jones visited St. Francis de Sales School in 1915, 88 students were in grades 6-8 and 50 students in high school.⁹⁰ With its combined curriculum of academic courses, teacher training, four years of high school, and domestic arts,

⁸⁶ M. N. Work, review of *Negro Education: A Study of Private and Higher Schools for Colored People in the United States*, Bulletins No. 38 and 39, 2 vols. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1917), at University of Chicago, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.2307/2713796>. See also Ben A. Smith et al., “Social Studies and the Birth of NCSS: 1783-1921,” *Social Education* (November/December 1995) and Andrew Barnes, “Thomas Jesse Jones, the Phelps Stokes Commission, and Education for Social Welfare in Colonial Africa,” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia*, July 30, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190277734.013.653>.

⁸⁷ M. N. Work, review of *Negro Education: A Study of Private and Higher Schools for Colored People in the United States*, Bulletins No. 38 and 39, 2 vols. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1917), at University of Chicago, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.2307/2713796>, p. 92. Dollar amounts are not adjusted for inflation.

⁸⁸ M. N. Work, review of *Negro Education: A Study of Private and Higher Schools for Colored People in the United States*, Bulletins No. 38 and 39, 2 vols. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1917), at University of Chicago, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.2307/2713796>, p. 93; Scot A. French et al., *Booker T. Washington Elementary School and Segregated Education in Virginia* (Washington, DC: National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 2007), p. 16-18.

⁸⁹ M. N. Work, review of *Negro Education: A Study of Private and Higher Schools for Colored People in the United States*, Bulletins No. 38 and 39, 2 vols. (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1917), at University of Chicago, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.2307/2713796>, p. 93.

⁹⁰ Amanda Bresie, *Veiled Leadership: Katharine Drexel, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and Race Relations* (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2023), p. 156.

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the school, therefore, was operating precisely as many education professionals believed to be most effective for serving the needs of Black children. Not everyone, however, agreed. Carter G. Woodson, a renowned education native to Virginia, took Jones to task for criticizing the efforts of the hundreds of public Black schools across the South. Although operating within an extremely difficult social, political, and financial environment, the schools often were sources of pride for Black communities, whose members advocated robustly for additional funding and routinely held fundraisers to purchase equipment, make repairs, and otherwise see to needs that local school districts ignored.⁹¹

In an attempt to make students at St. Francis de Sales School more competitive in the employment market, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament started a “commercial course” in 1918 that included typing, shorthand, and “Business English.” Whether students successfully entered administrative careers via this route is not known, although anecdotes suggest that continued discrimination in hiring reduced its efficacy. Over the next dozen years, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament continued to evolve in their pedagogical goals, as did the students enrolled there. In 1923, classes below seventh grade were eliminated and, two years later, seventh grade, too, was removed from the school. The school continued to offer eighth grade primarily because most Southern schools still offered formal education for Black students only through seventh grade. Classes in sewing, laundry, home nursing, and other domestic skills continued to be part of the curriculum, and students still were expected to perform labor as means of contributing to the school’s operation. Due to the gendered expectations of the day, the young women worked in the kitchen, bakery, and laundry. By this time, however, rather than being preparation for employment as domestic servants, the classes and training were considered part of the home economics movement; by 1920, one-third of all female high school students were taking home economics classes. Moreover, by the mid-1920s, both students and faculty understood that St. Francis de Sales School was preparing them for college rather than work in domestic trades.⁹²

⁹¹ Carter G. Woodson, “Thomas Jesse Jones,” *The Journal of Negro History*, Vol. 35, No. 1 (January 1950), p. 107-109. Woodson also criticized Jones’s management of the Phelps Stokes Fund, particularly Jones’s proclivity for operating behind closed doors.

⁹² Amanda Bresie, *Veiled Leadership: Katharine Drexel, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, and Race Relations* (Washington, DC: The Catholic University of America Press, 2023), p. 157, 159.

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Figure 36. 1922 photo of students at St. Francis School for Girls (Image Source: African American Registry, <https://aaregistry.org/story/the-st-francis-de-sales-school-opens/>).

St. Francis de Sales School and St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College shared activities routinely. A weekly “social” gave the young people an opportunity to spend recreational time together. Special events, such as the 1925 celebration of St. Emma’s 30th anniversary, brought the administrations, faculty, staff, and students at each school together as cohosts. For both the 1925 anniversary and the 1928 consecration of St. Edward Chapel at St. Emma, the students at St. Francis de Sales prepared receptions and formal dinners for visiting dignitaries. The student orchestra and chorus presented musical selections. In the realm of organized sports, St. Emma fielded football, baseball, and basketball teams, and local newspapers provided coverage of the teams’ successes from the 1920s through the school’s closure in 1972. Prior to the mid-1940s, the young women at St. Francis played sports on campus and formed cheerleading squads for the teams at St. Emma. Due to disparities in reporting on girls’ sports versus boys’ as well as, possibly, gendered expectations of appropriate activities for young women, no information about

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the teams at St. Francis de Sales School was discovered during research for this additional documentation.⁹³

The Great Depression Years at St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute and St. Francis de Sales High School

Perhaps due to the stock market crash in October 1929 and the ensuing Great Depression, information about St. Emma's operations during the 1930s and World War II is somewhat scarce. The school's name changed during this period, from St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College to St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute, reportedly because updated state accreditation standards required that schools that included "college" in their name had to meet higher standards than previously.⁹⁴ Likely due to ongoing financial support from Louise Drexel Morrell, operations at the school appear not to have been greatly curtailed during the Great Depression. As of 1934, St. Emma (and St. Francis de Sales School) stood among the 45 Catholic high schools then in operation by the Catholic Church. St. Emma also was cited as one of the two largest industrial training schools, alongside St. Joseph's School in Delaware. Due to its size and activity, many local residents were employed at Belmead, which was of tremendous assistance during the worst years of the Great Depression.⁹⁵

In 1929, administration of St. Emma transitioned from the Holy Ghost Fathers to the Benedictine Fathers of St. Vincent Abbey, based in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. The Benedictine Fathers administered St. Emma through the 1930s and World War II. Their tenure, however, was not without controversy. The Benedictine Fathers reorganized the curriculum and students' schedules into a "split class system" that had the students alternately attending academic classes for one week and then taking industrial and agricultural instruction the following week. The rationale for the change was to assure that the school's shops operated continuously, which increased production and, therefore, income to the school through sales. Faculty, however, found it a cumbersome system because they had to repeat each lesson twice, whether it was an academic or trade lesson. The students also grew to dislike the schedule as some found it more difficult to keep up with academics without instruction during each school day. Some 1930s graduates felt they were underprepared for the labor market because they had poor reading, writing, math, bookkeeping, and other skills that were increasingly necessary to be successful.⁹⁶

⁹³ "Reception Tendered by Sisters and Pupils at Belmead Convent," *The Catholic Standard and Times*, October 27, 1928, <https://jstor.org/stable/community.35616704>, p. 3; "Lauds Bishops Work for Colored," *The [Brooklyn, New York] Tablet*, December 19, 1936, p. 7.

⁹⁴ Robert A. Walker, Robert A. Walker, *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Virginia: R.A. Walker Jr., 2006), p. 155-156.

⁹⁵ "Church Has Many Schools in America for Negroes," *The Nebraska Register*, August 19, 1934, p. 1; Robert A. Walker, Robert A. Walker, *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Virginia: R.A. Walker Jr., 2006), p. 151.

⁹⁶ Robert A. Walker, *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Virginia: R.A. Walker Jr., 2006), p. 155-157.

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Although White educators and government officials continued to favor agricultural and trades education for Black students, Black educators, families, and communities increasingly demanded more for their children. Booker T. Washington, who had strongly influenced the initial conception of St. Emma's curriculum, had died in 1915. Meanwhile, Black leaders including Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950), Marcus Garvey (1887-1940), and W. E. B. Du Bois (1868-1963) argued that such limitations served primarily to limit most Black Americans to second-class citizenship. By funneling young Black men into agricultural and industrial (and young Black women into domestic service), their financial opportunities were curtailed, their academic potential untapped, and their ability to demand equal rights hobbled. Starting in 1930, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) began charting a legal strategy led by attorney Charles Hamilton Houston to begin dismantling racially segregated public school systems, beginning with lawsuits to secure pay for Black teachers equal to that of White teachers and to secure admission of Black students to all-White public colleges and universities in states where no parallel Black institution existed.⁹⁷ The Roosevelt administration, too, sought to improve education for Black people through construction of new, consolidated public school buildings, many of which replaced the Rosenwald-Washington schools of the 1910s and even earlier one-, two-, and three-room schools that lacked electricity and indoor plumbing. The school construction projects usually were undertaken by the Public Works Administration and Works Progress Administration. While St. Emma had been an innovative institution offering new opportunities to Black students at its founding in 1895, the Benedictine Fathers' continued emphasis on industrial and agricultural education at St. Emma meant that the school was falling out of step with larger efforts to improve opportunities for Black students.

As noted above, on the other hand, the curriculum at St. Francis de Sales School for Girls had started shifting toward a more academic curriculum during the 1920s. In 1934, a correction to a newspaper article in the *Richmond News Leader* noted that the school was a four-year, accredited high school and that its property name was St. Francis de Sales High School.⁹⁸ Through the 1930s, the two schools operated with approximately the same levels of enrollment. In a 1937 article about Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani's visit to St. Emma and St. Francis de Sales, the girls' school enrollment was noted as 145 students, while St. Emma had 156 students.⁹⁹ Historic photos show that the students participated in a variety of organized sports, including archery, softball, and basketball, as well as a variety of informal recreational activities such as sledding and swimming at the base of a dam on Deep Creek that provided hydroelectric power to both schools. Students also learned to play musical instruments and to sing in a choir; the student choir performed at numerous venues throughout the country.¹⁰⁰

⁹⁷ Jane Covington, Union Street School, National Register nomination, September 14, 2022, https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/253-5117_Union_Street_School_2022_NRHP_nomination_FINAL.pdf, p. 23-29.

⁹⁸ "Rock Castle is for Negro Girls," *Richmond News Leader*, August 21, 1934, p. 11. On August 18, the newspaper had reported erroneously that St. Francis de Sales was a boys' school.

⁹⁹ "Delegate Visits Schools for Negroes," *The [Brooklyn, New York] Tablet*, November 20, 1937, p. 15.

¹⁰⁰ Robin Patton, "St. Francis de Sales Catholic Boarding School for Girls, Powhatan, Virginia, 1899-1970, June 19, 2022, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/18fc43c2f7404fe38c1c4bd6061a4f7e>.

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At St. Emma, the Benedictine Fathers continued the school's traditional emphasis on military and religious instruction, for which St. Emma continued to be well regarded by wider audiences. In January 1931, St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute was among 10 Virginia schools to be inspected by U.S. Army Lieutenant-Colonel Ralph H. Leavitt, ROTC officer of the Third Corps. The other schools included Fork Union Military Academy, Massanutten Academy (Woodstock), Fishburne Military School (Waynesboro), Augusta Military Academy (Fort Defiance), Arlington County High School (Clarendon), Medical College of Virginia, George Washington University, and St. John's College (Washington DC).¹⁰¹ A small number of 1931 photographs of the school are in the collection of the College of William & Mary Swem Library's Special Collections Research Center and are attached to the end of this additional documentation form. The images depict the cadets, various places around campus, especially the shop area, and the ferry that, at this time, still transported students from the Rock Castle Station train stop across the James River to campus. All of the 1931 photographs demonstrate the campus's immaculate condition. Students at St. Emma also participated in competitions with other military schools, of which those in Virginia enrolled only White students. In 1933, cadets from St. Emma, Fishburne Military School, Fork Union Military Academy, and Augusta Military Academy participated in a junior division rifle championship, at which St. Emma cadets placed second in one level of the competition. In May 1937, cadets from St. Emma won the National Intercollegiate Rifle Team Matches with a score of 7,814 points out of a possible 8,000 that indicated their prowess.¹⁰²

¹⁰¹ "10 R.O.T.C. Units to be Inspected," *The Richmond News Leader*, January 14, 1931, p. 4. The acronym R.O.T.C. stands for Reserve Officers Training Corps. Today, the junior ROTC is for high school students and the senior ROTC is for college students, but this distinction does not appear to have been made in 1931. Although ROTC generally is understood to have been intended for men planning to enter the military as commissioned officers, Black men rarely had this opportunity prior to World War II. After the U.S. military was desegregated in July 1949 did large numbers of Black men begin to be commissioned.

¹⁰² "Augusta Academy Wins Rifle Championship," *The Roanoke Times*, March 21, 1933, p. 8; "Forty-Nine Schools in U.S. Event," *The Bangor (Maine) Daily News*, May 31, 1937, p. 17. Similar competitions were reported in March 1935 and March 1936.

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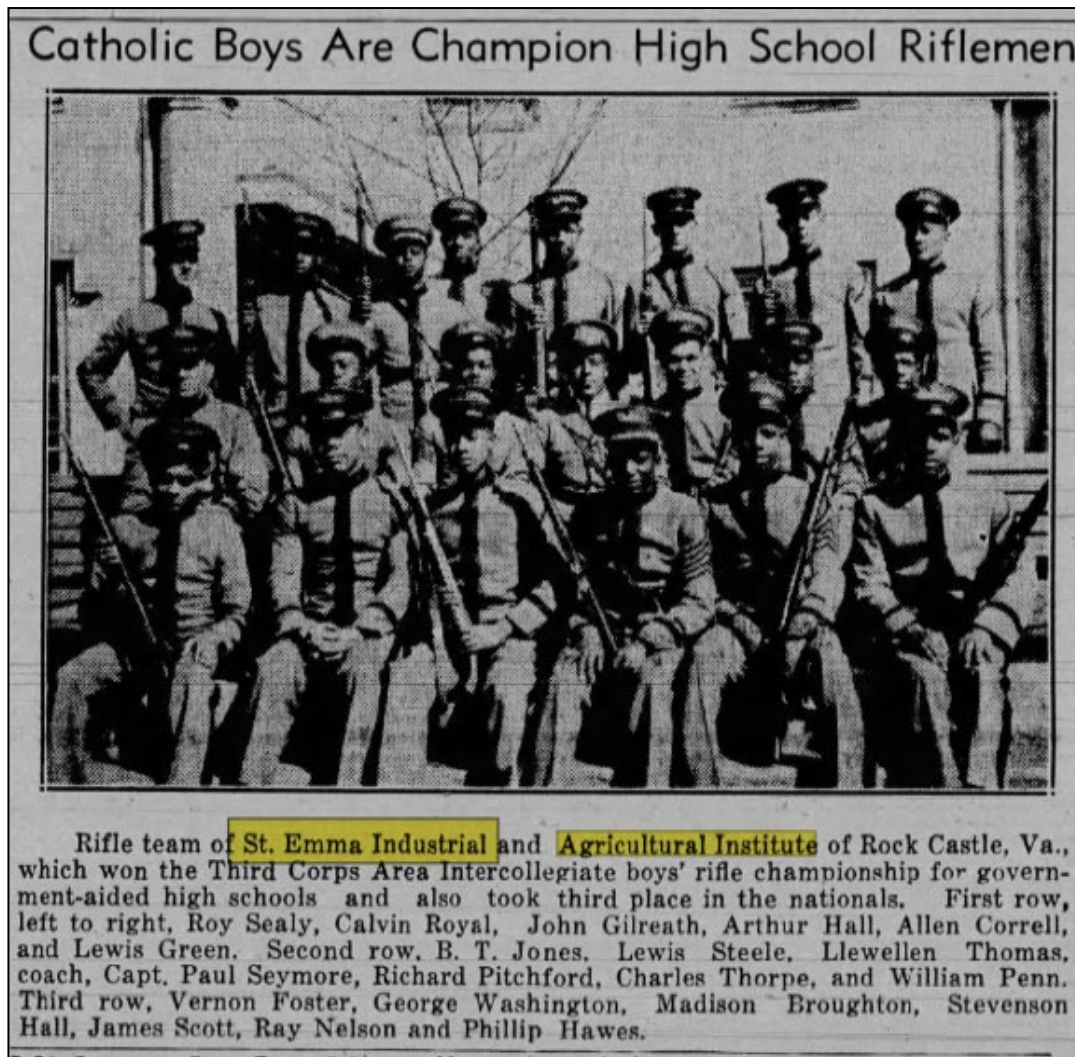


Figure 37. Brief article published in *The Afro-American* newspaper on October 20, 1934, page 13.

Both St. Emma and St. Francis de Sales School hosted repeated ceremonial and celebratory visits by various members of the Catholic hierarchy through the 1930s. As an example, on November 4, 1933, Virginia Governor John G. Pollard and Archbishop Alfred Koch of the Benedictine Fathers of St. Vincent attended a dedication of newly completed shop buildings. In 1936 in a letter to Cardinals, Archbishops, and Bishops in the U.S., the Vatican acknowledged the work of American Catholics to improve educational opportunities, living conditions, and social progress of Black Americans, and cited St. Emma and St. Francis de Sales as successful examples of these efforts. In 1937, St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute was a featured topic at the 15th convention of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference at Sacred Heart Cathedral in Richmond. In 1940, the St. Emma band and a choir composed of St. Emma and St. Francis de

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Sales School performed part of the musical program at the Corpus Christi celebration in Richmond.¹⁰³

The emphasis on military training at St. Emma placed the school ahead of growing concerns about the rise of fascism and imperialism in Europe and Japan. The Spanish Civil War from 1936-1939 heightened tensions in Europe, while Imperial Japan's invasion of China signaled its rise as the ascendant power among Pacific and eastern Asian nations. Although isolationist sentiment prevailed in the United States, the administration of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt sought to improve U.S. military readiness through increased funding, recruitment, training, and manufacture of armaments. These efforts often were foiled by opponents to U.S. involvement in European affairs as had occurred during World War I. One interesting aspect of the Roosevelt administration's aims to improve military preparedness was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), through which young men were employed to work on conservation projects throughout the country while also living in a military-type environment that included learning basic drilling, improving physical fitness, and becoming accustomed to a regimented lifestyle. St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute, the only military academy for Black men in the country, already had almost 40 years of experience with such training when the CCC was established in 1933.

The World War II Years at St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute and St. Francis De Sales School

In August 1940, Major P. B. Rogers, commanding officer of the U.S. Army's Quartermaster Depot at Front Royal, would be purchasing horses at St. Emma for military use. Cadets at the school had been breeding and raising horses at least since the 1920s, and members of the public also were invited to bring horses to the sale. Although the military largely was mechanized by 1940, horses continued to be used in some settings where heavy equipment broke down and for ceremonial purposes.¹⁰⁴ In May 1941, St. Emma and St. Francis de Sales School were in the news again, this time due to a visit by the president-elect of Haiti, Elie Lescot.¹⁰⁵ Lescot and his entourage were on a goodwill tour of the U.S., and sought out St. Emma specifically because of the school's agricultural and industrial training curriculum, which he hoped to emulate in Haitian schools.¹⁰⁶ One of Lescot's children, Max Lescot, attended St. Emma for one year before moving

¹⁰³ "Archabbot Koch Attends Dedication," *The Latrobe (Pennsylvania) Bulletin*, November 4, 1933, p. 5; "Catholic Rural Life Session Opens Here This Morning," *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, November 7, 1937, p. 12; "Corpus Christi Celebration Planned Here," *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, May 23, 1940, p. 23. The Rural Life conference concerned Catholic missionary work and aspects of rural life improvement. As a school that emphasized agricultural education, St. Emma presumably was highlighted for its success in providing training to its students in agricultural management as well as related trades.

¹⁰⁴ "Army Board Plans to Buy State Horses," *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, August 2, 1940, p. 23. The high quality of the horse breeding program at St. Emma was noted again in 1943; see Walter Craigie, "Hoof Prints: Belmead Doing Top Job," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, February 21, 1943, p. 22.

¹⁰⁵ "Haitian President-Elect Visits U.S. School," *The Tablet*, May 17, 1941, p. 24.

¹⁰⁶ "St. Emma's School May Serve as Model for Units in Haiti," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, April 28, 1941, p. 4.

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on to an agricultural program at the University of Arizona and then to California Polytechnic College, where he planned to continue his studies in crop management.¹⁰⁷

Lescot's time at St. Emma included a "strike" by 118 students who protested conditions at the school. Judge Charles Klein, dean of the school of law at Temple University in Philadelphia met with the students on behalf of Louise Drexel Morrell. The students provided a list of the conditions they were protesting, which included racial segregation and discrimination in the trade and agricultural departments, the chapel, auditorium, and at public gatherings, poorly trained and prejudiced instructors in the agricultural and trades departments with poor coursework that did not match the school's advertised offerings, improper accommodations for visiting families, poor lighting in the study hall, poor quality of recreational facilities and lavatories, and use of students as "unpaid labor" in instructors' personal homes without credit toward their fees. They finished by stating they felt they were "living under a dictatorship." Klein reportedly found the students' complaints to be valid and he asked the students to allow two months for improvements to be made, an offer to which they agreed.¹⁰⁸

The U.S. entered World War II following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawai'i on December 7, 1941. In January 1942, civilian defense workers began to be organized in central Virginia. In Powhatan County, the administrative office at St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute was one of the places where local residents could register to volunteer for a host of activities, including first aid, knitting and sewing, home nursing, blood donation, office work, speakers' bureau, fire and air raid wardens, and auxiliary police and firefighters.¹⁰⁹ The article does not mention if these activities would be racially segregated. Due to the pervasive nature of Jim Crow laws, however, it is likely that many participants and programs were segregated. Students still in school at St. Emma and St. Francis de Sales also participated in wartime activities, such as an April 1942 War Bond Parade, at which the 125-student St. Emma band and cadet corps marched to support a fundraising effort organized by Richmond's Black residents.¹¹⁰

The self-contained character of the school campuses helped to buffer the students at St. Emma and St. Francis de Sales from some aspects of the war, such as rationing. By 1940, both campuses were powered with hydroelectric power from a dam on Deep Creek, had their own drinking water system and central heating plant, and had their own refrigeration and ice-making facility. The immensity of the agricultural operation meant that students, faculty, and staff were well fed throughout the war, and still had surpluses that were sold to local residents, who also

¹⁰⁷ "Son of Haitian Presidents Attends Southern Polytechnic College," *San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune*, December 3, 1943, p. 1, 8.

¹⁰⁸ O. S. McCollum, "118 Students at St. Emma Strike," *Washington Afro American*, May 9, 1942, p. 1, 8. Klein also is credited for being among the staff and alumni who "saved [the law school] from collapse." Klein Hall at the university campus was named for him. See Caroline Hubbard, "Throwback Thursday: A Look at Temple Law Through the Years," *The Temple 10-Q*, 2016, <https://www2.law.temple.edu/10q/throwback-thursday-look-at-temple-law-years/>.

¹⁰⁹ "Civilian Defense Workers to be Registered Monday," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, January 24, 1942, p. 4. The newspaper otherwise was filled with news reports about varying aspects of the worldwide outbreak of war and the defense measures being organized by the U.S. government.

¹¹⁰ "St. Emma Band and Cadets to Parade," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, April 24, 1942, p. 12.

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could bring broken farming and mechanical equipment to the shop area for repairs. Due to the strict segregation practices of the time, the students already were accustomed to spending the vast majority of their time on campus, but for excursions such as participating in fundraisers and other special events.¹¹¹

For the war's duration, alumni of St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute joined the racially segregated U.S. Navy, Marines, Army, Army Air Corps, and Coast Guard. Due to their military preparatory training, alumni often were promoted quickly to noncommissioned officer ranks. Their opportunities otherwise, however, were limited as not only were Black men rarely commissioned as officers, but they often were limited to "support" roles such as sanitation, transportation, cooking, and other essential duties that White servicemembers shunned to the greatest extent possible. During research, news reports about two St. Emma grads were found; additional research is likely to yield more information about alumni service during the war. In 1943, Millard McWhorter, a native of Newnan, Georgia, then age 25 and a St. Emma graduate, was promoted from corporal to technical sergeant while serving with the 793rd Sanitation Company at Camp Stoneman in California.¹¹² Therman Powell, another alumnus, who hailed from Augusta, Georgia, served as a Mess Sergeant during the war. He had taken classes in baking and cooking while at St. Emma, and aimed to become a professional baker after the war.¹¹³

Infantry and other combat positions were held in highest esteem and men in those roles typically were promoted more quickly. Despite the fact that Black men had fought valiantly during World War I and received numerous commendations from the Allied powers, White American military leaders believed that White soldiers performed best in combat situations. The exception was the all-Black 92nd Infantry Division (commonly known as the Buffalo Soldiers), which served in the war's European Theater. After the June 6, 1944, invasion of Europe (commonly called D-Day), the high number of casualties among infantry troops forced the military's highest leadership to modify its policy by allowing Black troops and soldiers from noncombat divisions to volunteer for infantry duty through service in all-Black platoons that would be assigned as needed to bolster troop numbers where casualties had been greatest. By February 1945, at least 4,562 Black men volunteered for the infantry, many of them accepting a reduction in rank in order to serve. As in all previous American wars, Black soldiers performed at a high level and favorably impressed military leadership. In October 1945, the War Department (today's Department of Defense) formed a board of officers to compile information about the Black soldiers' combat service. Their subsequent report guided the policy deliberations that finally culminated with

¹¹¹ Robert A. Walker, *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Virginia: R.A. Walker Jr., 2006), p. 149, 159.

¹¹² "Cpl. Millard McWhorter (col.) Promoted," *The Newnan [Georgia] Times*, October 14, 1943, p. 3. The newspaper had a page dedicated to promotions, visits, deployments, and other news of hometown servicemembers. News about White servicemen was placed at the top of the page while news about Black servicemen was at the bottom and included the "col." abbreviation for colored in the tag line.

¹¹³ "St. Emma Grad," *The Phoenix [Arizona] Index*, June 7, 1941, p. 1. The announcement included a photo of Powell in his cadet uniform while at St. Emma and noted that he had been part of the track team and a varsity football player.

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President Harry S Truman's Executive Order 9981, which directed all of the U.S. military branches to provide "equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin," including through desegregation.¹¹⁴

Changes at St. Emma Military Academy and St. Francis de Sales High School, 1945-1964

World War II ended in August 1945. Life at St. Emma and St. Francis returned to a peacetime footing, but momentum soon began to build toward major changes in educational policy in Virginia and throughout the country. As private, Catholic schools, St. Emma and St. Francis were removed from the litigation that increasingly contested the racially segregated public school systems in Virginia and other Southern states. Most of the schools' students, however, came from places around the country, as well as Caribbean nations, where segregated education and racial discrimination curtailed their opportunities, which necessitated attending a school away from their homes and families.

Louise Drexel Morrell's commitment to St. Emma and to racial justice never wavered. According to one news report concerning her sudden death in November 1945, "she had just returned from a visit to St. Emma." In her will, Morrell had made St. Emma the main benefactor of her considerable estate. In addition to St. Emma, her bequests included a \$10,000 donation to the Catholic Interracial Council. Over the course of her life, Morrell was estimated to have donated \$6 million primarily to schools and Catholic charities.¹¹⁵

The St. Emma students' concerns about the school's academic curriculum had not yet been resolved by the time of Morrell's death. A Board of Directors continued to manage operations at the school, but it appears that Mother Katharine Drexel and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament also may have been influential in decision-making about St. Emma's future. In 1947, Katharine Drexel reportedly negotiated a return of the Holy Ghost Fathers to administer day-to-day operations and to seek accreditation for St. Emma as a four-year high school from the State of Virginia. In Robert A. Walker's history of and personal memoir about St. Emma, Father O'Rourke of the Holy Ghost Fathers began serving as director and immediately focused his attention on the curriculum. O'Rourke pointed out that educational trends had continued toward providing academic schooling through twelfth grade for all students. After graduating, students could elect to pursue technical, industrial, or agricultural training or to go to college.¹¹⁶

¹¹⁴ Mark T. Calhoun, "Black Volunteer Infantry Platoons in World War II," The National World War II Museum, New Orleans, February 28, 2023, <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/black-volunteer-infantry-platoons-world-war-ii>.

¹¹⁵ "Mrs. Morrell Dies; Philanthropist, 81," *The New York Times*, November 6, 1945, p. 20; "Mrs. Morrell Bequeaths Sum to St. Emma's," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, November 21, 1945, p. 7; "Philanthropist Dies," *The New York Age*, November 17, 1945, p. 6.

¹¹⁶ Robert A. Walker, *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Virginia: R.A. Walker Jr., 2006), p. 159-160.

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In 1947, the students' schedule changed from one week of academic instruction followed by one week of trades instruction to alternating days between academics and trades. The schedule eventually returned to the schedule advertised in the 1912 and 1928 prospectuses, with students in class for half the day and working in the trades and agricultural departments for the other half. Also during O'Rourke's first several years at the school, all of the instructors in the trade and academic departments became certified for the first time. A guidance department was added in 1952 to aid students with their course selections and post-graduation options, including applying to college. In 1953, St. Emma received accreditation as a four-year high school with a college preparatory curriculum. Reflective of the school's changed focus, the name changed from St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural Institute to St. Emma Military Academy.¹¹⁷



Figure 38. C. 1950 photo of St. Francis de Sales High School students crossing the 1930 bridge across Deep Creek that connected their school campus to St. Emma Military Academy (Image Source: Robin Patton, St. Francis de Sales Story Map, <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/18fc43c2f7404fe38c1c4bd6061a4f7e>)

The students at St. Emma and St. Francis de Sales High School interacted on a regular basis, although always under the strict supervisions of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and the Holy Ghost Fathers. As shown above, a concrete bridge, built in 1930 by St. Emma students, connected the two campuses. Alumni recollected that, on weekends, students crossed the bridge for roller skating, recreational sports, and simple socializing. Both the Sisters of the Blessed

¹¹⁷ Robert A. Walker, *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Virginia: R.A. Walker Jr., 2006), p. 160-161.

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Sacrament and the Holy Ghost Fathers supervised the gatherings carefully. At St. Francis de Sales High School, the Glee Club continued to be invited to an assortment of venues. In the above image, the St. Francis students were going to St. Emma's campus to watch a football game. A longstanding tradition that many students remembered fondly was the "social." For the first social event of the school year, the St. Emma cadets, dressed in uniform, would march in formation from St. Emma to the gymnasium (housed in a Quonset hut) at St. Francis de Sales. The St. Francis would already be inside, seated around the perimeter of the gym floor, with a chair between each girl. The cadets would march around the gym until ordered to stop, at which time the boys would sit in the chair nearest them and talk with the young woman next to them. At subsequent social, the students would dance in the gymnasium, always with nuns patrolling the dance floor to assure that decorum always reined.¹¹⁸

Although the St. Francis students in the Glee Club traveled widely during the 1950s-1960s, they always were accompanied by several Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. Along with concerts and recitals, the young women performed for other special events. The events appear most often to have been associated with activities of the Catholic Church. For example, in 1953, the young women joined the Reverend John P. Hannon for a series of Advent broadcasts on the WRNL "Legion of Mary" program.¹¹⁹ In 1960, the club went to Richmond to perform in a benefit concert to raise money for the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament convent in Torresdale, Pennsylvania, where retired and infirm nuns lived.¹²⁰

Enrolled in a private Catholic school in rural Virginia, the students at St. Francis de Sales and St. Emma were somewhat removed from the controversies roiling Virginia's public school system after World War II. The NAACP and other civil rights organizations filed lawsuits with increasing frequency to demonstrate that segregated public schools did not uphold the "separate but equal" doctrine established by the U.S. Supreme Court in the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* case. In response, the Virginia General Assembly appropriated funds to "equalize" segregated schools, primarily by improving facilities for Black students. Side-by-side comparisons of Black high schools to White schools, however, easily demonstrated the continued inequality of the schools; elementary schools similarly remained unequal. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1954 in the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* decision that struck down laws requiring racial segregation in public schools. Virginia's conservative political leadership chose to resist integration, with U.S. Senator Harry F. Byrd (1887-1966) primarily leading the effort. Byrd had been in state politics since 1915 and he created a highly organized operation, commonly referred to as the "Byrd machine" that dominated Virginia for more than three decades. In 1956, the Virginia General Assembly enacted a package of legislation, dubbed "Massive Resistance" by Byrd, to resist integration, but these new laws affected only public schools. Public school students participated in an assortment of civil rights protests and demonstrations during the 1950s and early 1960s. To date, information about participation of St. Francis de Sales and St.

¹¹⁸ Robert A. Walker, *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Virginia: R.A. Walker Jr., 2006), p. 211-212; Peggy Granderson, interview, "Memoirs from St. Francis de Sales School," *Stories from an Abandoned and Forgotten America* podcast, episode 3, starting at 19:39.

¹¹⁹ "Talk by Fr. Hannan," *The Richmond News Leader*, November 28, 1953, p. 7.

¹²⁰ "Three Local Pupils in Concert," *The Farmville [Virginia] Herald*, March 11, 1960, p. 14.

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Emma students, faculty, and staff has not been identified. Foundational to the founding of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament had been service to improve opportunities and social conditions for Black and Native Americans. The Catholic Interracial Council, which was formed during the mid-1940s by the merger of two earlier organizations, the Catholic Intercollegiate Interracial Council and the West Philadelphia Interracial Forum, was supported by Louise Drexel Morrell, including a donation to the organization included in her will.¹²¹

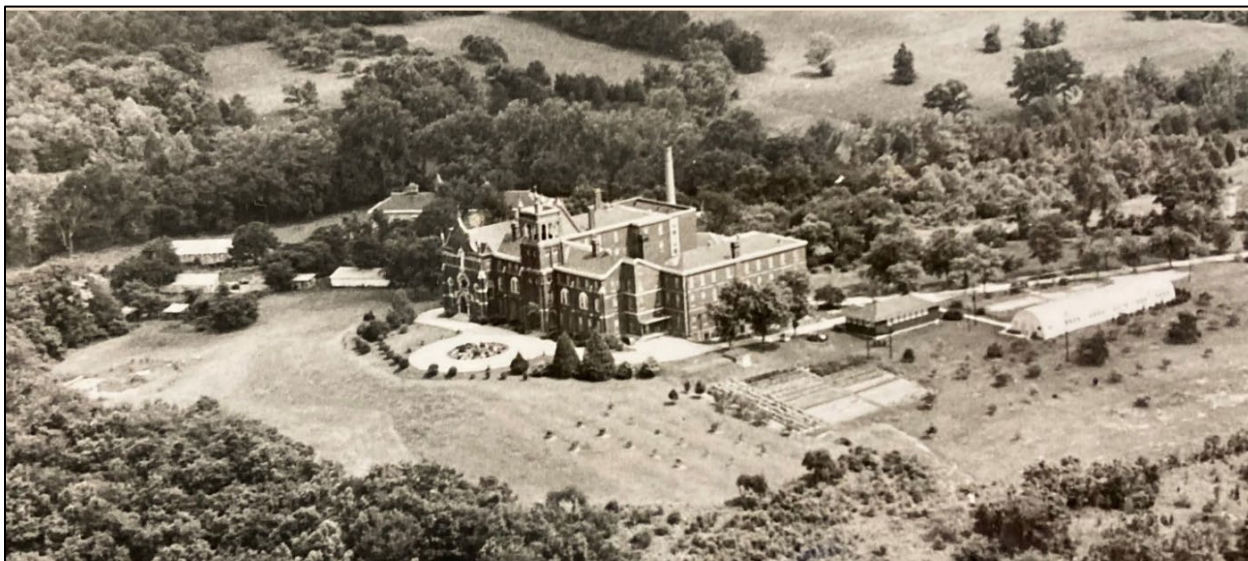


Figure 39. Detail of 1953 aerial view of St. Francis de Sales High School (image Source: Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, reproduced at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/18fc43c2f7404fe38c1c4bd6061a4f7e>).

Discipline at both schools continued to be strict through the 1960s. Alumni who have been interviewed about their experiences at St. Emma Military Academy and St. Francis de Sales High School almost uniformly recall the various ways that the faculty and staff, particularly the nuns, enforced school rules. Neatness, orderliness, and precise grooming were required of each student. School uniforms were required to be worn, with different uniforms designated for specific activities, such as classroom uniforms versus those worn on weekends or to special events. The St. Emma students learned, too, to maintain their rifles and other gear in immaculate condition. The student enrollment continued to be comprised primarily of Protestants, but all participated in religious instruction, including a weekly Mass, daily devotions, and classes. One

¹²¹ Ronald Heinemann, "Harry F. Byrd (1887–1966)," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, December 07, 2020, <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/byrd-harry-f-1887-1966>; James Hershman, "Massive Resistance," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, December 7, 2020, <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/massive-resistance>; "Catholic Interracial Council," Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, February 22, 2021, <https://chrc-phila.org/interracial-council/>.

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student recalled that, “Being at St. Francis changed my life. There was a feeling of family here.”¹²²

With passage of the federal 1964 Civil Rights Act and 1965 Voting Rights Act, Black Americans secured the civil, social, and political rights to which they were entitled as equal citizens. The Civil Rights Act included a ban on racial discrimination in hiring and employment practices, opening up a far more diverse array of professionals and occupations than historically ever had been available. In 1968, the Fair Housing Act outlawed racial segregation in housing and required equal access to rental and owner-occupied property. The same year, the *Green v. New Kent County* decision by the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the last of Virginia’s state-level Massive Resistance to integrating all levels of public schools, from elementary grades through graduate and professional schools. These achievements, together with changing social mores and declining interest in religiously-based education, caused declining enrollments at St. Francis de Sales High School and St. Emma Military Academy. St. Francis closed in 1970 and St. Emma followed in 1972. A robust alumni network, however, has assured that the two schools have not been forgotten.

Through the late 20th century, occasional efforts were made to keep the property in active use, but none succeeded. The Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament continued to own the huge property into the 2010s, but declining financial resources forced the order to raze many of the school buildings and to defer maintenance on many of the surviving resources. The property was sold to a private owner in 2019.

Each of the schools at the former Belmead plantation is significant at the statewide level under Criterion A in the areas of Education and Ethnic Heritage: African American. The schools functioned during Virginia’s era of racially segregated public education. As private schools administered by Catholic orders, St. Emma and St. Francis de Sales provided Black students with educational opportunities largely unavailable to them through public school systems in Virginia, the other Southern states, and the Caribbean region. The schools’ curriculums changed over time as students’ needs changed, Virginia’s public school system matured, state accreditation standards were established, and educational professionals established higher standards for high school education and college preparation.

In the area of Social History, St. Francis de Sales is significant at the statewide level as the only Catholic school in Virginia established by Katharine Drexel, a nationally significant philanthropist who devoted her adult life to serving the needs of Black and Native Americans. The order Drexel founded, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, owned and operated St. Francis de Sales School throughout its existence and Drexel continued to be the school’s principal source

¹²² Robert A. Walker, *The Black Military Academy on the James River* (Richmond, Virginia: R.A. Walker Jr., 2006), p. 193-194, 211-212; Peggy Granderson, interview, “Memoirs from St. Francis de Sales School,” *Stories from an Abandoned and Forgotten America* podcast, episode 3, starting at 22:17 ; Melvina Scott Herbert, interview, “Memoirs from St. Francis de Sales School,” *Stories from an Abandoned and Forgotten America* podcast, episode 3, starting at 1:32:49; quote by Chase Jackson in Phyllis Speidel, “A Haven Ahead of Its Time,” *Richmond Magazine*, September 21, 2010, <https://richmondmagazine.com/news/a-haven-ahead-of-its-time-09-21-2010/>.

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of financial support, as she was for the dozens of other schools for which she provided funding, until her death in 1955. Louise Drexel Morrell, with her husband, Edward De Veaux Morrell, founded St. Emma and both played an active role in the school's planning, opening, and administration. Following Edward Morrell's death, Louise Morrell continued to be the major donor to St. Emma and participated in numerous special events at the school from the 1890s until her sudden death in 1945.

Criterion C - Architecture

The Belmead Boundary Increase has achieved state-level significance under Criterion C for **Architecture** for the overall collection of both high-style and vernacular architecture representative of the evolution of the property and development throughout the period of significance, which includes c.1840 to 1972. The property contains a rare collection of intact resources from an expansive development period highlighting the design and technology of several distinct eras. The development phases begin with the antebellum plantation owned by Philip St. George Cocke and the Belmead mansion designed by Alexander Jackson Davis. Next, the property transitioned to a working farm with paid laborers, and then the Morrells purchased Belmead for the purpose of establishing St. Emma; Katharine Drexel and her order, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, founded the St. Francis de Sales School soon thereafter. During the first half of the twentieth century, both schools expanded and, in addition to military training, St. Emma's curriculum originally focused heavily on instruction in manual and agricultural trades, leading to numerous shops for training that ranged from plumbing, masonry, and carpentry to agricultural experimentation and germination laboratories. The grist-, flour, lumber, and sawmills, as well as an irrigation system, waterworks, steam heating plant, hydroelectric power generator, refrigeration equipment, and steam laundry are associated with both schools' operations, making the two campuses essentially self-sufficient. The materials and designs of the resources found throughout the property further emphasize and reflect the expansive history of the site. The property is also significant at the national level for its direct association with Alexander Jackson Davis, a nationally recognized architect, and his design of the prominent Early Gothic Revival Belmead Mansion. In addition to the rarity of types and aesthetics, resources at Belmead embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction.

Early Gothic Revival Style in Virginia

Known as the Picturesque Gothic, the Early Gothic Revival Style was popular in Virginia from roughly 1835 to 1865 but was primarily limited to churches and later schools. Alexander Jackson Davis was the first architect to favor the style as suitable for houses and was the architect to design the first fully-developed American Early Gothic Revival example in Baltimore, Maryland in 1832. The American revival styles during this period focused on Romanticism which highlighted a reexamination of what was thought a simpler past in order to find happiness in what seemed a more chaotic present. This movement was in response to factors, such as rapid urbanization, the spread of manufacturing and mechanization, the influx of poor immigrants, and the Civil War. The movement was primarily embraced by wealthy,

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presumably White, members of American society. Resulting architectural styles included Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Egyptian Revival, Renaissance Revival, Neo-Greco, and Rococo Revival (primarily limited to interiors). Prompted by publications such as Andrew Jackson Downing's *Cottage Residences* (1842), the Early Gothic Revival Style became popular in the United States as an expression of the Romantic movement in the arts and the Picturesque movement in architecture. A leading theorist of the 1840s and 1850s, Downing's perspective was that the buildings should visually harmonize with their natural surroundings and reflect the asymmetries and irregularities found in nature. He believed that the style of one's house, in particular, should be symbolic of one's values and beliefs and reflect the way one wanted to be viewed as a society.¹²³

During the Antebellum period (1830-1860) at the height of slavery, the Greek Revival style largely dominated, particularly for plantations, but the Gothic Revival style began to take root. It was the first style to challenge the classical traditions that had been dominant in Western architecture up to this point. In large part due to the continued popularity of classical revival styles, as well as the tradition of use for institutional buildings, Gothic Revival houses of the period are rare. Few of the limited examples were architect-designed as most were sourced from pattern books.

Extant examples of Early Gothic Revival plantation architecture in Virginia include:

- Belmead Mansion (1845)
- Staunton Hill in Brookneal, Charlotte County (1848)
- Hartwood Manor in Stafford County (1848)
- Whirtland in Oak Grove, Westmoreland County (1850)
- Perry Hill in the St. Joy vicinity of Buckingham County (c.1851-1852)
- Burgh Westra, which was based on a design by Andrew Jackson Downing, in Ware Neck, Gloucester County (1851).
- Melrose in Casanova, Fauquier County (1857-1860, considerably enlarged in 1920)
- Pratt's Castle in Richmond (1853)
- Steephill in Staunton (1877-78)

In addition to being a rare style utilized for residences in Virginia, there are even fewer that are comparable in scale and design to Alexander Jackson Davis's design of the Belmead Mansion, as well as their position within the larger landscape. Of the list above, only Staunton Hill is comparable to the mansion at Belmead. Although considered a rare surviving example of Gothic Revival architecture in the state, **Hartwood Manor** (NRHP 05001618, DHR ID # 089-0021) is described in the 2006 nomination as somewhat atypical in appearance for the style. Although it features the form, the pointed window arches characteristic of the style, it is much simpler than

¹²³Novelli, Chris Melina Bezirdjian, Calder Loth, and Lena Sweeten McDonald. *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*.

https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/pdf_files/Classic_Commonwealth_Style_Guide.pdf, pg. 55; Amelia Peck. "American Revival Styles, 1840-76." In Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000-. http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/davs/hd_davs.htm (October 2004)

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common, the decorative scroll-sawn vergeboards characteristic of the style have been removed along with a dormer that enhanced the asymmetry, and the dwelling was enlarged in 1967 and again in 1998 with the installation of a garage and a two-level modern deck and above-ground swimming pool along the north wall.¹²⁴



Figure 40: Hartwood Manor (DHR ID # 089-0021), Front Oblique, 2023 (VLR Online)

Modeled closely after the designs of Alexander Jackson Downing, **Whirtland** (NRHP 79003097, DHR ID # 096-0029), **Perry Hill** (NRHP 80004176, DHR ID # 014-0019), and **Burgh Westra** (NRHP 76002107, DHR ID # 036-0010) are classic variations of the Early Gothic Revival style. Each of the houses features prominent front gables with decorative detailing, monochrome colors, delicate traceries and moldings, gothic-arched windows, and clustered Tudor-style chimneys. While fine examples of the style in Virginia, they are much smaller in scale and grandeur than Belmead. Rather than a grand mansion or plantation house fitting for a large estate, these residential examples of the style are mere cottages seemingly more suitable for small-scale living. Burgh Westra is the closest in design to the Belmead Mansion with its cream-colored walls, diamond-paned casement windows with square hoods, and gabled parapets.

¹²⁴ National Register Nomination, "Hartwood Manor," Virginia Department of Historic Resources Archives File 089-0021, Richmond. Pg. 6-7

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Melrose (NRHP 83003281, DHR ID # 030-0070), although constructed in the Gothic Revival style and during the same time period, it more closely resembled the subtype of Castellated Gothic as defined by *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940* with its, polygonal tower, battlements/crenellations, stone construction, and machicolation. Another example, **Pratt's Castle** (DHR ID # 127-0083), similar to Melrose, is more characteristic of the Castellated Gothic style. Additionally, unlike Belmead and most of the other examples, as well as the objective of the style with the harmonization to the surrounding landscape, Pratt's Castle was constructed in the heart of the City of Richmond, a densely urban environment. Furthermore, it was demolished in 1957.



Figure 41: (Top Left) Whirtland (DRH ID # 096-0029), Front Elevation, 1976; (Top Right) Perry Hill (DHR ID # 014-0019), Front Elevation, c.2018; (Bottom) Burgh Westra (DHR ID # 036-0010), Front Oblique, 2023 [Source: VLR Online].

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Figure 42: (Left) Melrose (DHR ID #030-0070), Battlement Elevation, 2013 (VLR Online); (Right) Pratt's Castle (DHR ID # 127-0083), Exterior View, 1957 (V-CRIS)

Lastly, **SteePhill** (NRHP 84003599, DHR ID # 132-0031) in Staunton, Virginia, although constructed slightly outside of the typical Early Gothic Revival period, in 1877-78, was originally designed as a Gothic Style suburban villa. However, it was remodeled in 1926-1927 in the Georgian Revival style and is, therefore, no longer comparable to the Early Gothic Revival Belmead Mansion.



Figure 43: SteePhill (DHR ID # 132-0031), Front Elevation, 2022 (VLR Online)

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As highlighted in the 1969 nomination, **Staunton Hill** (NRHP 69000229, DHR ID # 019-0030) represents the only comparable expression of an Early Gothic Revival villa/plantation house that reflects the picturesque architecture and romantic setting consistent with the values and desired objectives of the Gothic Revival style in Virginia. Completed just five years after the Belmead Mansion, in 1850, it was designed based on a plate by Thomas Kelly, *Designs for Cottage and Villa Architecture* (1829). Although it features crenelated parapets and polygonal towers typically associated with the Castellated Gothic subtype, they are smaller, more delicate, and harmonizing with the rest of the dwelling, as well as the surrounding landscape, in contrast with the dominating fortification appearance typically associated with Castellated Gothic. Similar to Belmead, it has diamond-paned rectangular windows with decorative hoods, multiple planes and rooflines, clustered Tudor-style chimneys, and stuccoed masonry walls. However, in contrast to the solid masonry piers of Belmead, Staunton Hill features a delicate veranda, a central three-story pavilion, and a symmetrical façade.



Figure 44: Staunton Hill (DHR ID# 019-0030), West/Front Elevation and Setting (VLR Online)

In contrast with other examples of Early Gothic Revival residential architecture in the state, Belmead is distinguished as a large-scale estate and massive plantation with substantial agricultural production and a significant number of enslaved individuals to support building and production.

High Victorian Gothic Style in Virginia

The High Victorian Gothic style was popular in Virginia from roughly 1865-1895 reaching its peak in the United States during the 1870s. The style was primarily used for churches but was also used for other public buildings including government buildings, such as city halls, train

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stations, and schools. The style was typically reserved for large, architect-designed landmarks, particularly in urban areas. The High Victorian Gothic Style was greatly influenced by nineteenth-century British architectural critic John Ruskin, as well as architectural elements of English, German, Italian, and French architecture. Brick and stone were the preferred building materials, and unlike Early Gothic Revival architecture, which was typically limited to one color, High Victorian Gothic utilized a variety of colors but achieved through the varying colors of the materials rather than through paint. The style emphasized massing and solidity and featured complex rooflines. Furthermore, in contrast to the lighter, curvilinear gingerbread-type trim of Early Gothic Revival, High Victorian Gothic utilized different colors and materials juxtaposed to create decorative bands highlighting corners and arches or arcades along with differing stone, ornamental pressed brick, or terra cotta tile to decorate wall surfaces. This includes using carvings in either geometric patterns or with foliage designs. In general, moldings and other ornamental features are heavier, bolder, and thicker than the Early Gothic Revival decoration. In High Victorian Gothic, window and door openings featured the traditional pointed Gothic arch and often included tracery containing trefoils or quatrefoils.¹²⁵

There are several extant examples of High Victorian Gothic churches and public buildings in Virginia. Some notable examples include:

- Old City Hall in Richmond (1884-94)
- First Baptist Church in Lynchburg (1886)
- St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Staunton (1895)
- St. Andrews Catholic Church in Roanoke (1902)

Schools constructed in the High Victorian Gothic style in Virginia are more limited. The following list includes the known school architecture that can be classified as High Victorian Gothic in the state:

- Immanuel Chapel, The Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary (1881) – non-extant
- Miller School of Albemarle in Albemarle County (1874) (NRHP 74002102)
 - Main Building
 - Mechanical Arts Building
 - Superintendant's House
- Union Theological Seminary Quadrangle, Richmond (1896) (NRHP 83003309)
 - Watts Hall
 - Westminster Hall
 - Richmond Hall
- St. Francis de Sales School Building (1895)
- University of Richmond, Richmond (Current Campus, 1911)
 - Henry Mansfield Canon Memorial Chapel (1929) (NRHP 13000259)

¹²⁵ Novelli, Chris Melina Bezirdjian, Calder Loth, and Lena Sweeten McDonald. *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*.

https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/pdf_files/Classic_Commonwealth_Style_Guide.pdf, pg. 55; John J.-G. Blumenson. *Identifying American Architecture: A Pictorial Guide to Styles and Terms, 1600-1945*. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc: New York, New York, 1977. pg. 33

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- Weinstein Hall (1951-1952)
- Francis William Boatwright Memorial Library (1936, 1955)
- Jepson Hall (1992)

Of the five schools and twelve known resources, one, the Immanuel Chapel at the Protestant Episcopal Theological Seminary, was destroyed by fire and is no longer extant.

Of the remaining resources listed above, the Main Building (see Figure 45, below), the Mechanical Arts Building, and the Superintendent's House at the Miller School of Albemarle are the most precise examples of the High Victorian Gothic style and most closely resemble the design, scale, and ornamentation of the St. Francis de Sales School building (see Figure 11, above) at Belmead. Similar to St. Francis de Sales, they emphasize massing and solidity and utilize the same materials of brick, stone, slate, and metal. In addition to both having a raised stone foundation, the primary wall surface of each is red brick with contrasting stone elements that provide decorative ornament. In comparison to the Main Building, in particular, at the Miller School, each features a complex roofline with steeply-pitched gable parapets, metal finials, and steeply-pitched gable dormers. Both have some windows framed with concrete hoods as well as quatrefoil elements. Similarly, the primary double-leaf entry of each features the same concrete Gothic arch surround. Furthermore, each features projecting planes that divide up the façade. Where St. Francis de Sales has buttressing, however, the Main Building at the Miller School features columns.

Although quite similar in overall characteristics, St. Francis de Sales is in some ways more decorative and more asymmetrical. One of the more decorative elements of St. Francis includes the metal elements including more ornamental metal finials, additional metal coping, a metal cross at one gable end, and arched coping capped with finials over arches on the chapel facade. The most decorative portion of the building has an ogee-shaped parapet flanked by hexagonal engaged columns and spires. The Gothic entrance portal is supported by concrete columns with decorative capitals and has a copper spire topped with a cross. A rose window, with stone tracery, is located immediately above the entrance. In addition to the lancet windows with quatrefoil tracery and stone arches that flank the entrance, the façade also features a stone alcove, with a statue of St. Francis located in the center of the third-floor level. St. Francis de Sales also had a bell tower, although it collapsed in 2010. St. Francis also has several large brick chimneys with decorative brick designs, including a cross in one, and decorative corbelled caps.

While both the Main Building at the Miller School and St. Francis de Sales are quite large and both feature a U-shaped plan with a courtyard, the Main Building at the Miller School is significantly larger and features two U-shaped wings with two rear courtyards contained within. The Main Building also differs in that it features a Porte Cochere with another prominent, and different entry, contained underneath. Contrasting with the traditional steeply-pitched Gothic-arched entry, this double-leaf entry features a multi-light transom with a very low-pitched pointed arch. The entry is also framed with sidelights with stone panels below. Furthermore, unlike St. Francis de Sales, which is different on each elevation, the Main Building at the Miller School features the same repetition of the design in a symmetrical layout on each of the three primary elevations. Additionally, while the Mechanical Arts Building features the same basic

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design elements characteristic of the style, it has a four-story clock tower and features pyramidal roofs instead of gabled parapets.



Figure 45: The Main Building at the Miller School of Albemarle, Albemarle, VA (DHR ID# 002-0174), Front Elevation (VLR Online)

The three campus buildings at the Union Theological Seminary in Richmond are also similar in several of the components characteristic of the style but are less precise representations and are overall smaller and more toned down than the St. Francis de Sales School building. The two-story porch at Westminster Hall is the defining feature of the building, and it is similar to the design of the rear porch of St. Francis de Sales. However, the porch at St. Francis de Sales is wood and Westminster Hall's is cast iron. Also, while St. Francis de Sales may altogether feature more decorative detailing, the porch itself of Westminster Hall is much more decorative than that of St. Francis de Sales with its pin-wheel brackets and arches with vine and floral motifs. Westminster Hall features gabled parapets with metal coping, similar to St. Francis de Sales, along with metal spires and decorative chimneys. In contrast, however, it features hipped dormers and lacks the contrasting stone detailing that is present on St. Francis de Sales. The building is more monochrome with its exclusively brick elements and simple concrete window hoods. Similarly, Richmond Hall features similar design elements to Westminster Hall with the gabled parapets and hipped dormers but lacks the decorative porch. Even more monochrome, it lacks any contrasting stone or concrete elements and almost exclusively utilizes the same red brick tones with the exception of the roof. Furthermore, the side porch features battlements more consistent with the Castellated Gothic subtype. Watts Hall, although quite decorative, continues the monochrome design with exclusive red-brick tones. While it features several gabled

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parapets, a central traditional pointed Gothic arch at the front entry, metal spires, decorative brick chimneys, and buttressing all similar to St. Francis de Sales, the balustrades and window trim, including quoins framing the windows, and the use of a Romanesque arch, set it apart from St. Francis de Sales. Additionally, the central tower also features battlements, like Richmond Hall, further resembling the Castellated Gothic style.



Figure 46: Westminster Hall, Rear Elevation (Left) and Watts Hall, Facade (Right) at the Union Theological Seminary (DHR ID# 127-0316) in Richmond (VLR Online)

The University of Richmond was included because the architecture is constructed with stylistic elements consistent with High Victorian Gothic. However, all of it was constructed well past the period when true High Victorian Gothic architecture was being implemented in Virginia. The closest example to High Victorian Gothic architecture was Charles Robinson's Cannon Chapel which was constructed in 1929. Although constructed much later, it features several characteristics of the style including the emphasis on mass, the use of brick with contrasting stone elements, the traditional pointed Gothic arch, buttressing, gabled parapets with metal finials, and a rose window with concrete tracery. The other three buildings on campus that most closely resemble High Victorian Gothic are Weinstein Hall, the Boatwright Library, and Jepson Hall. Each was constructed with similar design features to match the campus design. They feature brick walls with contrasting concrete elements, buttressing, concrete spires and pinnacles, recessed entries with traditional Gothic-arched portals, and Gothic arches in the towers. However, these are not comparable to St. Francis de Sales. The elements are much more streamlined and toned down in comparison to St. Francis de Sales. Additionally, they do not feature the use of metal, stone, gabled parapets, or dormers. Most importantly, however, two of the buildings were constructed in the mid-twentieth century and the third, Jepson Hall, was constructed in 1992. Although designed to mimic High Victorian Gothic, they are not true representations of the style.

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Figure 47: (Left) Cannon Chapel (DHR ID# 127-0364-0009) and (Right) Boatwright Library (DHR ID# 127-0364) at the University of Richmond (VLR Online)

Architects

The Belmead Boundary Increase is associated with at least three known architects, one of which is nationally recognized.

Alexander Jackson Davis (1803-1892) was a nationally renowned architect and author and was considered America's greatest architect of the mid-nineteenth century. Davis is considered to have been the leading architect of country houses during the 1840s and 1850s specializing in "picturesque" styles such as Gothic Revival and Italianate. Over 100 of his designs for villas and cottages were built. He is attributed to influencing the picturesque landscape and considered himself an "architectural composer." It is also possible to argue, given his focus on landscape, paintings, and a picturesque setting, as well as landscape features of campuses, that he could be considered an early landscape architect but prior to the official term "landscape architect" which was not created as a professional title until 1863 in association with Frederick Law Olmstead following Olmstead's design of New York's Central Park.¹²⁶ According to AIA architect Alan

¹²⁶ John E. Wells & Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary*. New South Architectural Press: Richmond, Virginia, 1997. Pg .106.; Amelia Peck. "Alexander Jackson Davis (1803-1892)." In Heilbrunn Timeline of Art History. New York: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 2000-
.http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hd/days/hd_days.htm (October 2004); "Alexander Jackson Davis." Reuel Smith House. Accessed April 11, 2024. <https://www.reuelsmithhouse.com/a-j-davis>.

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Neumann, “Perhaps no other American architect has made so many lasting contributions to so many different aspects of the built environment.”¹²⁷

Although Alexander Jackson Davis practiced nationwide, his office was located in New York City. His most prominent works include the Indiana State Capital Building (1831-1835) and a number of large country estates on the Hudson River. In Virginia, his greatest achievement was the campus of the Virginia Military Institute (VMI). He was active in Virginia from 1845 to 1860, and the majority of his work in the state included residences, with the exception of VMI and a couple of monuments. The location of his work in Virginia was primarily limited to central Virginia in areas of prominent estates and wealth. Based on the timeline of his activity in Virginia, it is likely that Belmead was his earliest work in Virginia.¹²⁸

Alexander Jackson Davis was born in New York City in July 1803. He grew up in Newark, New Jersey but was sent to Alexandria, Virginia by the age of 15 to learn the printing trade. His apprenticeship was from 1818-1823, and as a result of this apprenticeship published a series of lithographs depicting urban landscapes as *Views of the Public Buildings in the City of New York* and also provided material to early American illustrated journals like the *New-York Mirror*. Following the completion of his apprenticeship, Davis returned to NYC. He studied at the American Academy of Fine Arts, the New York Drawing Association, and the Antique School of the National Academy of Design to be an artist. However, important artists of the day encouraged him to focus on architecture. Thus, he shifted his focus to that of an architectural illustrator, and his architectural career began in 1826. This background as an artist and as an architectural illustrator had a significant impact on his approach to architecture as he was much more focused on design rather than structure, theory, or building technology.¹²⁹

In 1826, Davis began his career with Ithiel Town and Martin E. Thompson, and by 1829, he became a partner. An innovative leader in engineering and the Greek Revival style, Ithiel Town was influential in helping Davis gain the foundational knowledge of architectural form and structure. Davis remained under Ithiel Town for six years until the partnership dissolved in 1835. Following the dissolution of the partnership, Davis primarily operated solo, and by 1836 he began writing his first book. *Rural Residences* was the first American book about the design of country houses, and given Davis’s background, it was illustrated with hand-colored lithographs that helped introduce the concept of picturesque architecture in the United States. In this publication, it is evident how much Davis focused on landscape. His drawings include plantings and equal, if not more, attention to the surrounding landscape. Although not many copies of *Rural Residences* were sold, due to the financial panic of 1837, it was a beginning step toward heralding the integration of a structure with its landscape. Following *Rural Residences*, Davis partnered with Andrew Jackson Downing and illustrated Downing’s publications. The publications met with wild success, which contributed to Davis’s popularity and fueled him as a

¹²⁷ “Alexander Jackson Davis.” Reuel Smith House. - Quote from Historic Hudson A.J. Davis 200th Anniversary Essay.

¹²⁸ Wells & Dalton, *The Virginia Architects*, 106; Amelia Peck. “Alexander Jackson Davis (1803–1892).”

¹²⁹ History of Early American Landscape Design contributors, “Alexander Jackson Davis,” *History of Early American Landscape Design*, https://heald.nga.gov/mediawiki/index.php/Alexander_Jackson_Davis (accessed April 11, 2024).; Amelia Peck. “Alexander Jackson Davis (1803–1892).”

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desirable choice for wealthy landowners.¹³⁰ Publications with Downing included *Cottage Residences* (1842), *The Architecture of Country Houses* (1850), and *The Horticulturist* (a magazine).¹³¹

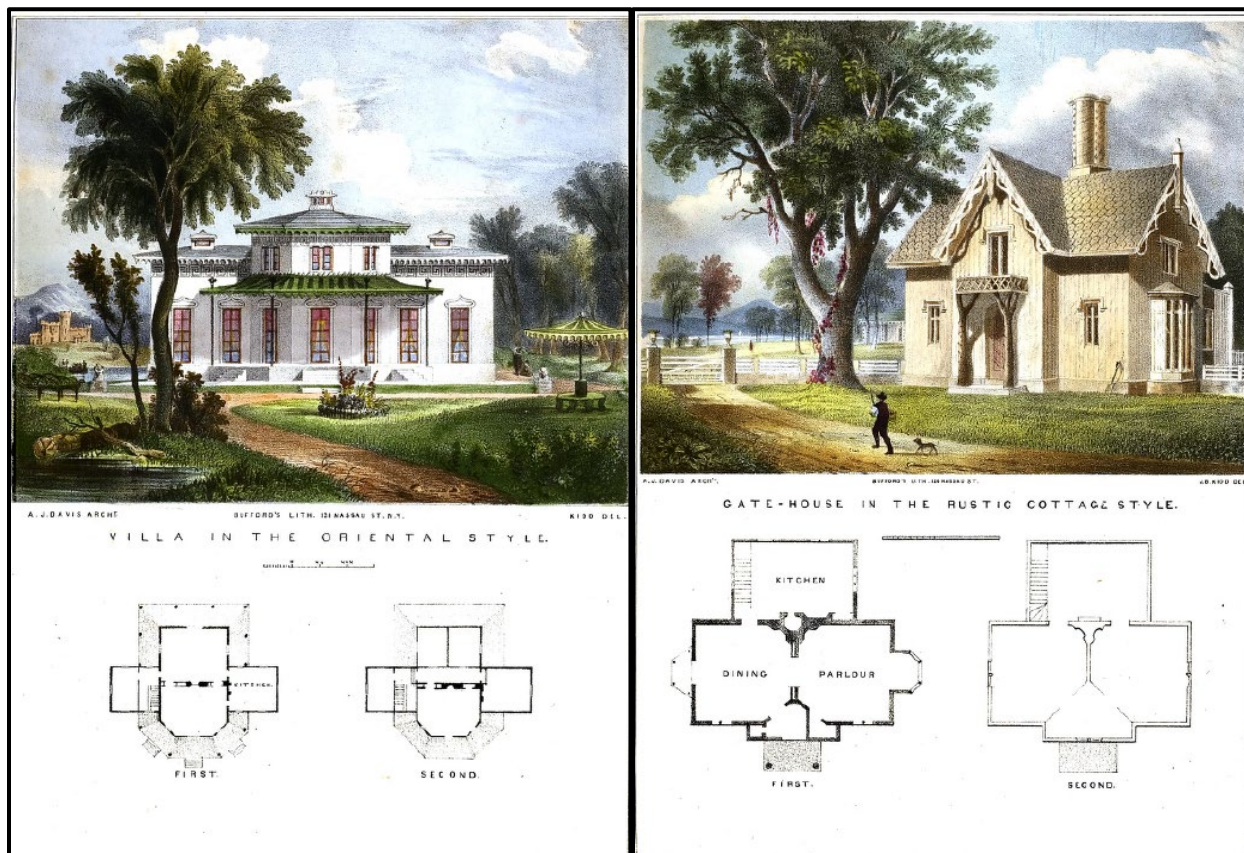


Figure 48: (Left) Davis's Lithograph and Floor Plan Design of a Villa in the Oriental Style, (Right) Davis's Lithograph and Floor Plan Design for a Gate-House in the Rustic Cottage Style (*Rural Residences*, pg. 12 & 16, Google Books)

One of many southern plantation houses designed by Davis in the American South, Belmead was comparable to large-scale southern plantations. Philip St. George Cocke, who was the primary influencer behind the design of Belmead, found Davis by admiring his drawings in Alexander Jackson Downing's book. Although responsible for the design, Davis enlisted local builders to oversee the construction of Belmead. In fact, in 1849, Cocke helped Davis render a perspective of the house, which Davis had not yet seen in person. In keeping with Davis's interest in the picturesque, his role at Belmead also included an element of landscape architecture. The first integration of the house into the broader landscape included the carriage drive and its curve up to the hill under the porte-cochere. The porte-cochere represented a place where the interior, exterior, and setting merged. The design of the house integrates with the landscape on the inside in addition to the outside. The view from the entrance to the other side highlighted the view of

¹³⁰ Amelia Peck. "Alexander Jackson Davis (1803–1892)."; "Alexander Jackson Davis." Reuel Smith House

¹³¹ "Alexander Jackson Davis." Reuel Smith House

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the outside and the landscape overlooking the river, and the windows offered panoramic views of the landscape. Unlike typical plantation architecture where the central stair is the focus, the staircase at Belmead was not located in the central hallway, thus did not affect views of the setting. The window glass itself further reflected the landscape with artwork depicting images of corn, tobacco, cotton, and white oak leaves and acorns. These were produced by W.J. Hannington of New York.¹³²

At Belmead, Davis, with the help of Cocke, designed picturesque cottages and gatehouses to function as slave quarters. Architectural historian Daniel Bluestone found that much of the construction labor at Belmead was carried out by enslaved people and argues that Davis's designs for the estate hid slavery behind a picturesque veneer that conveyed refinement and taste.

In the *History of Early American Landscape Design*, an article about Alexander Jackson Davis and his work captures the essence of slavery behind the picturesque veneer in the following quotes:

*“Architectural decorations featured heraldic depictions of cotton, tobacco, wheat, and corn that brought the landscape into the main house, but elided the bodies of the enslaved people who cultivated them.”*¹³³

*“Whether by altering the designs of slave quarters at Belmead or the main plantation house at Loudoun, Davis used picturesque designs to indulge the ideological blindspots of these clients.”*¹³⁴

In his prime, Alexander Jackson Davis worked almost exclusively in the Gothic Revival mode. Following the Civil War, building trades suffered and Davis struggled. Davis's works following this period were minimal, in no small part due to his unwillingness to branch out from Gothic Revival, which had diminished in the post-war period in favor of styles such as Second Empire and High Victorian Gothic.¹³⁵ The last 25 years of his career were largely spent drawing projects that were never built.¹³⁶

In Virginia, Davis was active between 1845 and 1860. Work was predominately residences with the exception of a couple of monuments and his work at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI). Other notable works in Virginia include¹³⁷:

- 1848-1849: Powhatan County Courthouse, Powhatan
- 1848: Sharswood, Charles E. Miller Residence, Pittsylvania County
- 1850-1851: Charles Scott Gay Residence, Richmond

¹³² Daniel Bluestone, “A.J. Davis’s Belmead: Picturesque Aesthetics in the Land of Slavery,” *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 71, no. 2 (June 2012): 147-148.

¹³³ History of Early American Landscape Design contributors, “Alexander Jackson Davis,” *History of Early American Landscape Design*, https://heald.nga.gov/mediawiki/index.php/Alexander_Jackson_Davis (accessed April 11, 2024).

¹³⁴ “Alexander Jackson Davis,” *History of Early American Landscape Design*.

¹³⁵ “Alexander Jackson Davis,” *History of Early American Landscape Design*.

¹³⁶ Amelia Peck. “Alexander Jackson Davis (1803–1892).”

¹³⁷ Wells & Dalton, *The Virginia Architects*, 106

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- 1850-1852: Elk Hill, William S. Archer Residence, Amelia County
- 1851-1855: Hawkwood, Richard Morris Residence, Louisa County
- 1853-1854: Cocke Family Monument, Mt. Pleasant, Surry County
- 1853: Tomlin Residence
- 1858: Elmington, Robert K. Dabney Residence, Powhatan County
- VMI:
 - 1848-1860: Barracks, two professors' residences, mess hall, and porter's lodge
 - 1860: Superintendent's Residence, three faculty residences

C. L Dodd is responsible for designing the chapel portion of the St. Francis de Sales School (DHR ID # 072-0181/072-0049-0058) on the Belmead property in Powhatan County, Virginia. While little is known about him overall, it is known that he was active in Virginia from 1895 to 1901, and he is associated with at least two resources within the state.¹³⁸ In March 1895, Dodd signed an agreement with "mother Katharine", presumably Katharine Drexel of Belmead and the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, to build a school. The land selected for the school was called Mount Pleasant, the present-day site of the St. Francis de Sales School. In the contract, it was specified that Dodd "use his best skill and judgment in prosecuting faithfully and vigorously the work committed to his care...in connection with the building of a school at Mount Pleasant, Virginia and such other buildings at that place as the said Mother Katharine may direct."¹³⁹

Dodd was paid \$30 a week plus \$35 extra per week for his living expenses, travel costs, and other expenses connected with his work related to the school. He lived at Rosemont, which was built on the property located across the road from the entrance to the St. Francis de Sales School, with his wife Rosezilda in Powhatan County from c.1898 to 1901 while the school was being constructed.¹⁴⁰ C.L. Dodd is associated with having designed Rosemont, which shares some similarities to the school, such as a slate roof, stained glass windows, ornate double-leaf entrance doors, interior wainscoting, and the same paneling on the chimneys as seen on several chimneys within the school. It is also believed that surplus materials from the St. Francis School may have been used at Rosemont, accounting for the similarities.¹⁴¹

Henry Albert Roby, known as H.A. Roby, is associated with having designed the rest of the St. Francis de Sales School (DHR ID # 072-0181/072-0049-0058) at Belmead. Born in Massachusetts in 1844, he began work as a draftsman in 1868 in his mother's home at 891 Park Avenue in Baltimore. By 1870, city directories identified him as an architect with an office at 155 Park Avenue, and by 1871, he became partners with another architect, Edward Lupus, until the death of Lupus in 1877. In the 1890s, he moved to Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Although the exact timeline is unclear, he later became partners with Abner A. Richter of Reading, Pennsylvania and they established *Roby & Lichter*. The 1890 Bryan Directory refers to a H.A. Roby of Lebanon, Pennsylvania. Because the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, the benefactors of the St. Francis de Sales school for girls, were located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, it is

¹³⁸ Wells & Dalton, *The Virginia Architects*, 122

¹³⁹ National Register Nomination, "Rosemont", Virginia Department of Historic Resources Archives File 072-0169, Richmond. Pg. 8.

¹⁴⁰ Wells & Dalton, *The Virginia Architects*, 122; "Rosemont", pg. 8

¹⁴¹ "Rosemont", pg. 8

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believed that this refers to Henry Albert Roby. Another known work of Roby's includes the 1896 St. Katharine's Church at East Lancaster Avenue & North Aberdeen Avenue in Wayne, Pennsylvania. Roby returned to Baltimore with his wife, Mary C. Roby, where he remained until his death in 1905.¹⁴²

Architectural Significance of Belmead's Resource Collection

In addition to the Belmead Mansion, there are several architecturally significant resources on the Belmead property. In fact, most of the resources throughout the property reflect distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and possess high artistic values. Additionally, both the Belmead Mansion and the **St. Francis de Sales School** (DHR ID # 072-0181/072-0049-0058) represent the work of a master, as well as have high artistic value. The collection of resources is in large part marvelously preserved and retain the physical elements associated with their original design, including the general architectural features, form, and stylized elements. Despite the poor condition, and in some cases severe deterioration of some resources, such as the St. Francis de Sales School building, these resources retain each of the seven aspects of integrity.

In addition to the overall value of the collection of architecturally significant resources spanning nearly two centuries, there are also two resources of exceptional architectural significance. One of the most significant extant architectural resources on site is the **Granary** (DHR ID # 072-5064/072-0049-0032), which was constructed in 1841. This three-story, T-shaped, timber-frame and stone building is highly significant for its quality of construction and materials, as well as the picturesque details that are unusual for an agricultural building. The facade features a pedimented portico entry with four round stone columns situated on a stone base. The main entrance/portico entry includes a wood step and extremely large double-leaf board-and-batten doors with large metal strap hinges. The cross-gable section to the west includes a rectangular, one-story, semi-enclosed space with square stone columns. Some of the spaces between the columns are open, while others feature vertical board walls/coverings. The north elevation of the main rectangular section is entirely stone and features a central door opening at the basement level with a stone lintel. At the second-floor level, there are two rectangular window openings with stone lintels, as well as a central recessed stone panel with a lintel engraved with the building date above it. At the third-floor/attic level, there are two semi-circular window openings with stone arches flanking a larger boarded-up window opening with a large stone lintel. A two-story stone lean-to addition, with a slate shed roof, abuts the east wall of the main section. This addition has a slate roof and exposed rafters.

While the building utilizes materials available on-site, the stone was undoubtedly more expensive than wood materials would have been, hence the latter's much more frequent use for outbuildings. Furthermore, the presence of the stone portico and round stone columns at the entry is unusual for an otherwise utilitarian agricultural building. The scale of the materials and features of the building are also notable. In addition to the huge double-leaf entry doors, the interior framing is significant in size and construction. The wood summer beams are extremely

¹⁴² Wells & Dalton, The Virginia Architects, 386; National Register Nomination, "Hebrew Orphan Asylum," Baltimore, MD. Prepared by Baltimore Heritage, Inc. Pg. 16

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large and well-preserved. The craftsmanship, which was likely that of enslaved laborers, is visible in both the joinery, the hand-hewn saw marks, and the condition of the building. The construction not only reflects the craftsmanship of enslaved laborers of the mid-nineteenth century, but it also highlights the quality of the materials, particularly the old-growth forest, that it has been free from rot or insect damage for almost two centuries. Overall, the building features high-quality and typically more expensive materials, such as stone and slate, and is more architecturally rich than a traditional agricultural outbuilding. Additionally, it is in remarkable condition and reflects the wealth of the farm at Belmead.

The building is rich in architectural value, for both the quality of materials and design, and as the oldest surviving, completely unaltered building on site. It is also significant for its association with agricultural advances at Belmead. Not only is it extremely significant to the property as a whole, it was recommended potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for architecture and Criterion B for the association with Philip St. George Cocke and his contributions in the field of agriculture as a result of the reconnaissance-level survey conducted on February 1-2, 2024.¹⁴³

Another equally architecturally significant resource is the High Victorian Gothic style **St. Francis de Sales School** (DHR ID # 072-0181/072-0049-0058) which was constructed in 1895. The main portion of the school was designed by Virginia architect C.L. Dodd, while the Chapel, which is connected, was designed by Pennsylvania architect H.A. Roby. The school was constructed bricks made from local clay, and the stone for the foundation and decorative details was quarried from the Belmead property. Consistent with the characteristics of the High Victorian Gothic style, the building has gothic-arched windows and door openings, features tracery containing quatrefoils, has a variety of complex rooflines, features ornamental brick and stone that is heavy and bold, and features polychromatic effects achieved through contrasting materials.

Having been abandoned since the school closed in the 1970s, the school is now in extremely poor condition. Continued deterioration and neglect, due primarily to its vacancy, deferred maintenance, and exposure to the elements, threaten the resource. In recent years, vandalism has also become an increasing threat to the building. Despite these threats, the resource retains a high degree of integrity. As the primary resource associated with the St. Francis de Sales School established by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, it was also recommended eligible for individual listing in the NRHP under Criterion C for its architectural value as a result of the reconnaissance-level survey conducted on February 1-2, 2024.¹⁴⁴

In addition to its association with Katherine Drexel and the establishment of the school, the resource is also architecturally significant as one of the finest examples of High Victorian Gothic architecture used for educational purposes throughout the state, as demonstrated above. In addition to the obvious high artistic value, it is notable for its use of materials sourced from the

¹⁴³ The building is recommended potentially individually eligible by the surveyor as a result of the field survey and does not reflect recommendations of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

¹⁴⁴ The building is recommended potentially eligible by the surveyor as a result of the field survey and does not reflect recommendations of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

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Belmead property, as a unique rural representation of such high-style architecture, and as a rare example of the work of C.L. Dodd and H.A. Roby in Virginia.

In addition to the Granary and the School building, the site is also significant for the collection of unique and rare intact resources such as the **Stone Arched Bridge** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0046), and the multiple resources throughout the woods, such as the **Ice Dam** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0056), the **Concrete Irrigation Channel** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0053), the **Concrete Water Containment Facility** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0054), the multiple stone ditches (DRH ID # 072-0049-0004, 0008), etc. that reflected the self-sufficiency of the property throughout the duration as both a working farm and as a school/community. Furthermore, in addition to the Granary, resources such as the nineteenth-century power plant (DHR ID # 072-0049-0042) and the **Spring House** (DHR ID # 072-0049-0049), which has a stone foundation, brick walls, a slate roof, and a finished interior, reflect the wealth and prominence of the estate even into its years as a school for African American boys and girls.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☒ previously listed in the National Register (NRHP Ref. No. 69000270)
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

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☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☒ University

☒ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond; Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; University of Virginia, Albert and Shirley Smalls Collection Library; Library of Virginia, Richmond

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #072-0049

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2,265 acres

Acreage previously listed in the National Register 439 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.635930 Longitude: -78.018962

2. Latitude: 37.636310 Longitude: -77.968114

3. Latitude: 37.602973 Longitude: -77.967938

4. Latitude: 37.602463 Longitude: -78.018439

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

In the 1969 nomination, the nominated area encompassed 439 acres, but the topographic map accompanying the nomination does not depict a precise boundary; instead, the map has a large polygon that encompasses considerably more than 439 acres, even crossing the James River into Goochland County. With this Boundary Increase nomination, Belmead's nominated area is being increased to include 2,265 acres, while electronically-generated mapping showing the precise increased boundary is attached hereto.

The expanded boundary includes acreage historically owned by Philip St. George Cocke, and later by Louise and Edward Morrell and Katharine Drexel, and finally by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament during Belmead's period of significance. The boundary also includes acreage historically leased by the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and farmed by St. Emma Military Academy students. The nominated boundary coincides with the perimeters of two tax parcels, recorded by Powhatan County as 014-1 and 014-2. The true and correct nominated boundary is depicted on the attached Location Map, Sketch Map Overview, and Tax Parcel Map, all of which have a scale of 1"=2,000', and on the attached Sketch Maps, which have a scale of 1'=200'.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary was selected based on Belmead's period of significance and the historically significant activities and events with which the property is associated, including the agricultural activities undertaken throughout Belmead's period of significance. The nominated boundary also coincides with the current boundaries of the two tax parcels, 014-1 and 014-2, that are historically associated with Belmead's owners since 1838, when Philip St. George Cocke first acquired the property. The property's historic setting and all known associated historic resources are encompassed by the increased boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Victoria Leonard, Lena McDonald, Ashlen Stump, and Kayla Halberg,
organization: Commonwealth Preservation Group
street & number: 536 W 35th Street
city or town: Norfolk state: Virginia zip code: 23508
e-mail: admin@commonwealthpreservationgroup.com
telephone: 757-923-1900
date: June 2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Belmead (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

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- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Belmead Additional Documentation 2024/25

City or Vicinity: Powhatan

County: Powhatan

State: Virginia

Photographer: Marcus Pollard

Date Photographed: 2/1/2024 – 2/2/2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo Number of 84	Description	Camera Direction	Date	Photographer
1	Belmead Mansion, SE Oblique, Porte Cochere at Main Entrance	NW	2/1/2024	MP
2	Belmead Mansion, SW Elevation	NE	2/1/2024	MP
3	Belmead Mansion, SW Elevation, View to Porte Cochere and Main Entrance	NE	2/1/2024	MP
4	Belmead Mansion, W Oblique at Rear Elevation	E	2/1/2024	MP
5	Belmead Mansion, NE Elevation	SW	2/1/2024	MP

Belmead (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

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6	Belmead Mansion, NE Elevation, Bell Tower Detail	SW	2/1/2024	MP
7	Belmead Mansion, SE Elevation	SW	2/1/2024	MP
8	Belmead Mansion Interior, First Floor, Entrance Hall, View Toward Vestibule	SW	2/1/2024	MP
9	Belmead Mansion Interior, First Floor, Vestibule, View Toward Entrance Doors	W	2/1/2024	MP
10	Belmead Mansion Interior, First Floor, Historic Dining Room, View Toward Central Hall and Drawing Room	NE	2/1/2024	MP
11	Belmead Mansion Interior, First Floor, Rear/NW End of the Main Hallway in the Original Section, View Towards the Front	SE	2/1/2024	MP
12	Belmead Mansion Interior, Second Floor, Central Hall/Room, View Up to Octagonal Skylight	SE	2/1/2024	MP
13	Officer's Quarters and Modern Garage	NE	2/1/2024	MP
14	Octagonal Concrete Garage/Patio	SE	2/1/2024	MP
15	Old Pump House	W	2/1/2024	MP
16	Stone Ditch #1	W	2/1/2024	MP
17	Stone Wall	SE	2/1/2024	MP
18	Freestanding Stone Steps	SW	2/1/2024	MP
19	Belmead/St. Emma Site (Parcel 014-1), View from Belmead Mansion Driveway Toward the Agricultural Complex	E	2/1/2024	MP
20	Semi-circular Stone Retaining Wall and Immaculate Heart of Mary Statue	NW	2/1/2024	MP
21	Belmead/St. Emma Site (Parcel 014-1), View from the Belmead Mansion Driveway Down the Hill to the Lower Agricultural Field	NE	2/1/2024	MP
22	Jefferson Cottage	SE	2/1/2024	MP
23	Washington Cottage	SE	2/1/2024	MP
24	Belmead/St. Emma Site (Parcel 014-1), View from Lower Agricultural Field Up the Hill Toward the Belmead Mansion	SW	2/1/2024	MP
25	Equipment Barn	NW	2/1/2024	MP
26	Arched Metal Shed	SE	2/1/2024	MP
27	Livestock Barn and Silo	NW	2/1/2024	MP
28	Granary	NE	2/1/2024	MP
29	Granary	NW	2/1/2024	MP
30	Granary	SW	2/1/2024	MP

Belmead (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

Powhatan County, VA

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31	Stone Gate Piers	N	2/1/2024	MP
32	Stables	SW	2/1/2024	MP
33	Pratt Truss Bridge	E	2/1/2024	MP
34	Concrete Bridge Across Deep Creek	SE	2/1/2024	MP
35	St. Edwards Cemetery, Gate in Foreground	NW	2/1/2024	MP
36	Modern Stables	SE	2/1/2024	MP
37	Water Tower	SE	2/1/2024	MP
38	Modern Shed	E	2/1/2024	MP
39	Basketball Court	NE	2/1/2024	MP
40	Memorial Circle	W	2/1/2024	MP
41	Typical Piggery	S	2/1/2024	MP
42	Slave Cemetery	S	2/1/2024	MP
43	Deep Creek Dam Structure, View Across Creek Toward Spillway	E	2/1/2024	MP
44	Deep Creek Dam Structure, Side Metal Gear Structure	NE	2/1/2024	MP
45	Main Entrance Sign to Belmead/St. Emma Side (Parcel 014-1)	NW	2/1/2024	MP
46	Main Entrance Gate Markers at Main Entrance to Belmead/St. Emma Side (Parcel 014-1)	NW	2/1/2024	MP
47	Secondary Entrance Gate Marker (Left), Detail	NE	2/1/2024	MP
48	St. Francis de Sales Site (Parcel 041-2), SW corner of the open clearing north of Deep Creek that features the school and support buildings	N	2/2/2024	MP
49	St. Francis de Sales School Building, Rear/South Elevation	NE	2/2/2024	MP
50	St. Francis de Sales School Building, Rear/South Elevation, View of Courtyard	NW	2/2/2024	MP
51	St. Francis de Sales School Building, Façade/North Elevation	SE	2/2/2024	MP
52	St. Francis de Sales School Building, Façade/North Elevation, View Toward the Collapsed Bell Tower	SW	2/2/2024	MP
53	St. Francis de Sales School Building, Façade, Detail of Chapel Section	SE	2/2/2024	MP
54	St. Francis de Sales School Building, Façade, Chapel Detail, Rose Window	S	2/2/2024	MP

Belmead (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

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55	St. Francis de Sales School Building, Façade, Chapel Detail, Nixed St. Francis Statue	S	2/2/2024	MP
56	St. Francis de Sales School Building, Façade, Chapel Entrance Detail	S	2/2/2024	MP
57	St. Francis de Sales School Building, East Elevation	W	2/2/2024	MP
58	Music Building	NW	2/2/2024	MP
59	Quonset Hut	SW	2/2/2024	MP
60	Wood-Frame Pump House	NW	2/2/2024	MP
61	Brick Utilities Building	E	2/2/2024	MP
62	Old Brick Foundation (Covered)	N	2/2/2024	MP
63	St. Francis Power Plant, Façade	W	2/2/2024	MP
64	St. Francis Power Plant, Rear Elevation	N	2/2/2024	MP
65	St. Francis Power Plant, Stone Room and Smoke Stack Connection at the Eastern Rear Corner	NW	2/2/2024	MP
66	Complex Concrete Foundation	NE	2/2/2024	MP
67	Stone Wall Near Deep Creek North of the St. Francis School	N	2/2/2024	MP
68	Brick Outdoor Fireplace/Fire Pit	SW	2/2/2024	MP
69	Stone Arched Bridge	S	2/2/2024	MP
70	Corn Crib, Facade	SE	2/2/2024	MP
71	Stone Wall and Corn Crib Site	W	2/2/2024	MP
72	Circular Concrete Pit, Corn Crib Site	E	2/2/2024	MP
73	Concrete Trough, Corn Crib Site	E	2/2/2024	MP
74	Spring House, Façade	SE	2/2/2024	MP
75	Spring House, SE Oblique	NW	2/2/2024	MP
76	Dam Across Licking Creek (a tributary of Deep Creek)	SW	2/2/2024	MP
77	One Story Brick Garage	N	2/2/2024	MP
78	Historic Gas Pump	SE	2/2/2024	MP
79	Concrete Irrigation Channel	NE	2/2/2024	MP
80	Concrete Water Containment Facility	NW	2/2/2024	MP
81	Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament Cemetery	SW	2/2/2024	MP
82	Children's Cemetery, St. Francis de Sales School	SW	2/2/2024	MP
83	Ice Dam, Front/NE Side	W	2/2/2024	MP
84	Man-Made Drainage Ditch	NW	2/2/2024	MP

Belmead (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)
Name of Property

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Embedded Images Log

Figure No.	Caption
1	Granary, southwest oblique (CPG 2024)
2	Granary, Interior, First Floor, View Northeast (CPG 2020)
3	(Left), Stone Arched Bridge, (Right) Stone Wall Detail (CPG 2024)
4	Belmead Mansion, Façade (CPG 2020)
5	Belmead Mansion, Northeast Elevation (CPG 2020)
6	Belmead Mansion Roof Detail (CPG 2020)
7	Belmead Mansion, Curved Staircase, View from 2 nd Floor (CPG 2020)
8	Belmead Mansion, Curved Staircase (CPG 2020)
9	(Left) Historic Drawing Room, View North, (Right) Historic Office, View Southeast (CPG 2024)
11	St. Francis de Sales School, Façade, Chapel Entrance (CPG 2024)
12	St. Francis de Sales School, Chapel Interior, Rear Balcony and Entrance (CPG 2024)
13	St. Francis de Sales, Chapel Interior, Front Alcove/Altar (CPG 2024)
14	St. Francis de Sales, First Floor Interior
15	(Top Left) St. Francis Power Plant Facade, (Top Right) Rear Elevation of Power Plant, (Bottom Left) SE Oblique/Rear of Spring House, (Bottom Right) Interior of Spring House
16	(Left) Livestock Barn & Silo, (Middle) Equipment Barn, (Right) Stables, (CPG 2020)
17	Octagonal Concrete Garage/Patio, (Top Left) Top - View Southwest, (Top Right) Interior, (Bottom Left) Interior - view of garage doors and transom, (Bottom Right) View of the Retaining Wall/Stairs up to the Belmead Mansion
18	Memorial Circle/Prayer Garden: (Top Left) Overall View, (Top Right) Central Monument, (Bottom) Garden Sign (CPG 2024)
27	Powhatan Quadrangle topographic map, mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey, 1966, photorevised 1987.
28	March 1994 Aerial View of Belmead (Google Earth Pro)
29	December 2002 Aerial View of Belmead (Google Earth Pro).
30	Powhatan Quadrangle topographic map, produced by the United States, 2019.
31	2024 Aerial view of Belmead (Google Earth Pro).
32	Plaque listing the names and death dates of the persons interred at the Slave Cemetery at Belmead (Image Source: Commonwealth Preservation Group, 2024).
40	Hartwood Manor (DHR ID # 089-0021), Front Oblique, 2023 (VLR Online)
41	(Top Left) Whirtland (DRH ID # 096-0029), Front Elevation, 1976; (Top Right) Perry Hill (DHR ID # 014-0019), Front Elevation, c.2018; (Bottom) Burgh Westra (DHR ID # 036-0010), Front Oblique, 2023

Belmead (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

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42	(Left) Melrose (DHR ID #030-0070), Battlement Elevation, 2013 (VLR Online); (Right) Pratt's Castle (DHR ID # 127-0083), Exterior View, 1957 (V-CRIS)
43	Steephill (DHR ID # 132-0031), Front Elevation, 2022 (VLR Online)
44	Staunton Hill (DHR ID# 019-0030), West/Front Elevation and Setting (VLR Online)
45	The Main Building at the Miller School of Albemarle, Albemarle, VA (DHR ID# 002-0174), Front Elevation (VLR Online)
46	Westminster Hall, Rear Elevation (Left) and Watts Hall, Facade (Right) at the Union Theological Seminary (DHR ID# 127-0316) in Richmond (VLR Online)
47	(Left) Cannon Chapel (DHR ID# 127-0364-0009) and (Right) Boatwright Library (DHR ID# 127-0364) at the University of Richmond (VLR Online)

Historic Images Log

Figure No.	Caption
10	Slave Dwellings at Belmead, 1848-1849 – no longer extant (Source: The Met)
19	Instructions for planning crop rotations from Philip St. George Cocke's Plantation and farm instruction book, p. 11.
20	Ca. 1848 map of Belmead, including sketch of primary dwelling, Deep Creek and its mill pond, the James River, and layout of pastures and woodlands across the plantation. Map is in the John Hartwell Cocke papers, MSS 640, Box 189, at the University of Virginia Albert and Shirley Smalls Special Collection Library.
21	The above crop rotation schedule is below the ca. 1848 drawing and refers to the numbered tracts in Figure ____).
22	Ca. 1848 map of west end of Belmead showing layout of fields and woodlands. The numbered table is a crop rotation schedule. Additional notes about the crop rotations are at the bottom of the drawing. Map is in the John Hartwell Cocke papers, MSS 640, Box 189 at the University of Virginia Albert and Shirley Smalls Special Collection Library.
23	Powhatan Quadrangle topographic map, prepared by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, under the direction of Chief of Engineers, U.S. Army, 1943.
24	Powhatan Quadrangle topographic map, mapped by the Army Map Service, published for civil use by the Geological Survey, 1943.
25	Powhatan Quadrangle topographic map, mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey, 1966
26	Powhatan Quadrangle aerial view, produced and published by the Geological Survey in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, 1979.
33	Students and Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Francis de Sales School for Girls, July 24, 1899 (Image Source: Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament,

Belmead (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

Powhatan County, VA

Name of Property

County and State

	https://www.katharinedrexel.org/timeline/st-francis-de-sales-rock-castle-virginia/). The image depicts the courtyard on the rear side of the campus's main building.
34	Photo of St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College who then became instructors at the school (Image Source: 1928 Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College).
35	At top, Photo of Belmead mansion-turned-Administration Building and, at bottom, map of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College campus (Image Source: 1928 Prospectus of the St. Emma Industrial and Agricultural College).
36	1922 photo of students at St. Francis School for Girls (Image Source: African American Registry, https://aaregistry.org/story/the-st-francis-de-sales-school-opens/).
37	Brief article published in The Afro-American newspaper on October 20, 1934, page 13.
38	C. 1950 photo of St. Francis de Sales High School students crossing the 1930 bridge across Deep Creek that connected their school campus to St. Emma Military Academy (Image Source: Robin Patton, St. Francis de Sales Story Map, https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/18fc43c2f7404fe38c1c4bd6061a4f7e
39	Detail of 1953 aerial view of St. Francis de Sales High School (image Source: Catholic Historical Research Center of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, reproduced at https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/18fc43c2f7404fe38c1c4bd6061a4f7e .
48	(Left) Davis's Lithograph and Floor Plan Design of a Villa in the Oriental Style, (Right) Davis's Lithograph and Floor Plan Design for a Gate-House in the Rustic Cottage Style (Rural Residences, pg. 12 & 16, Google Books)
Additional Documentation	1931 photos of St. Emma cadets, instructors, family members, and different places across the school's campus. Photos are in the collection of the College of William & Mary Swem Library's Special Collections Research Center.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



Additional Documentation, Belmead, Powhatan County, VA; DHR No. 072-0049: 1931 photos of St. Emma cadets, instructors, family members, and different places across the school's campus. Photos are in the collection of the College of William & Mary Swem Library's Special Collections Research Center.



Additional Documentation, Belmead, Powhatan County, VA; DHR No. 072-0049: 1931 photos of St. Emma cadets, instructors, family members, and different places across the school's campus. Photos are in the collection of the College of William & Mary Swem Library's Special Collections Research Center.

St. Emma I. & A. Institute

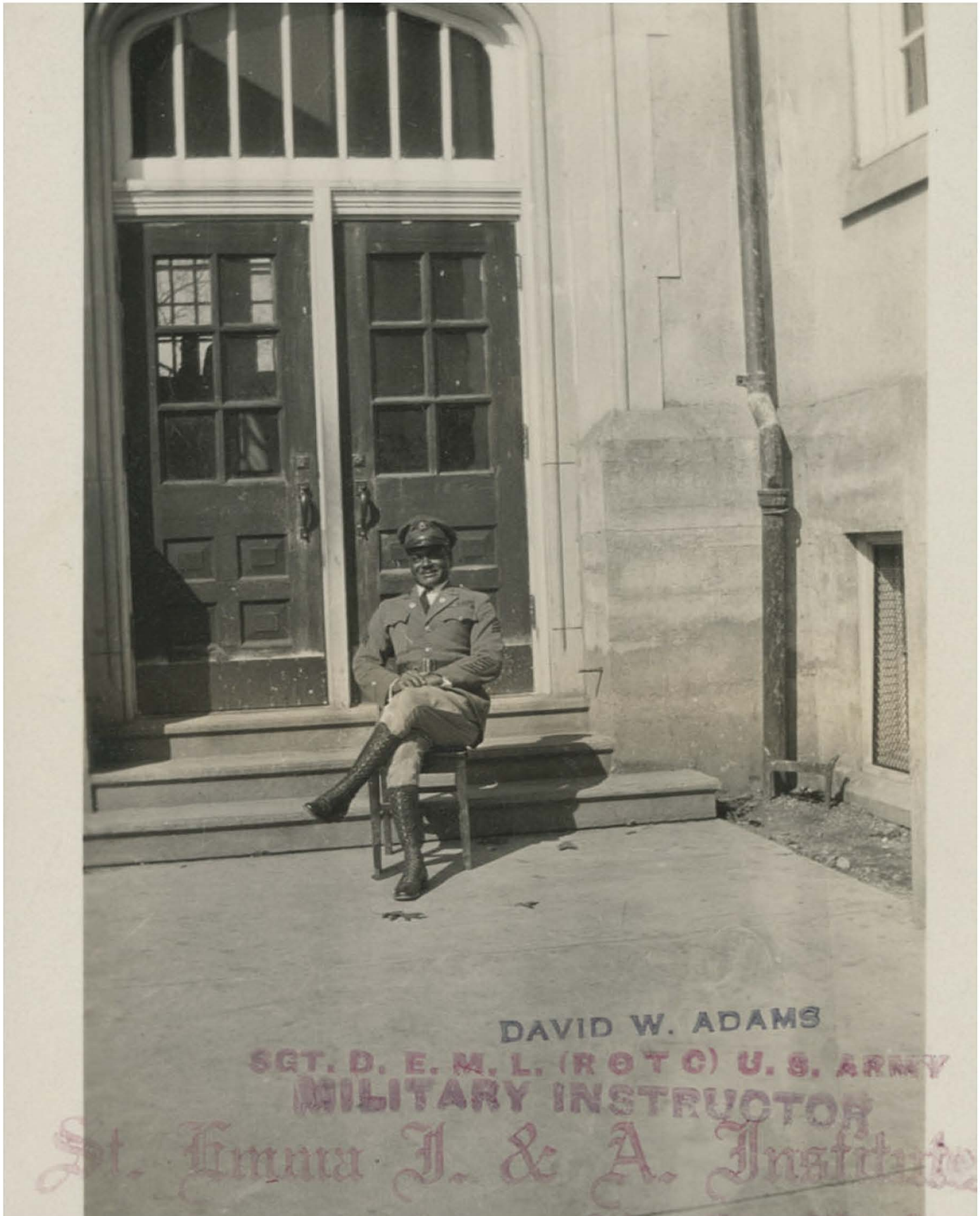


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DAVID W. ADAMS

SGT. D. E. M. L. (R O T C) U. S. ARMY
MILITARY INSTRUCTOR

St. Emma J. & A. Institute



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St. Emma J. & A. Institute



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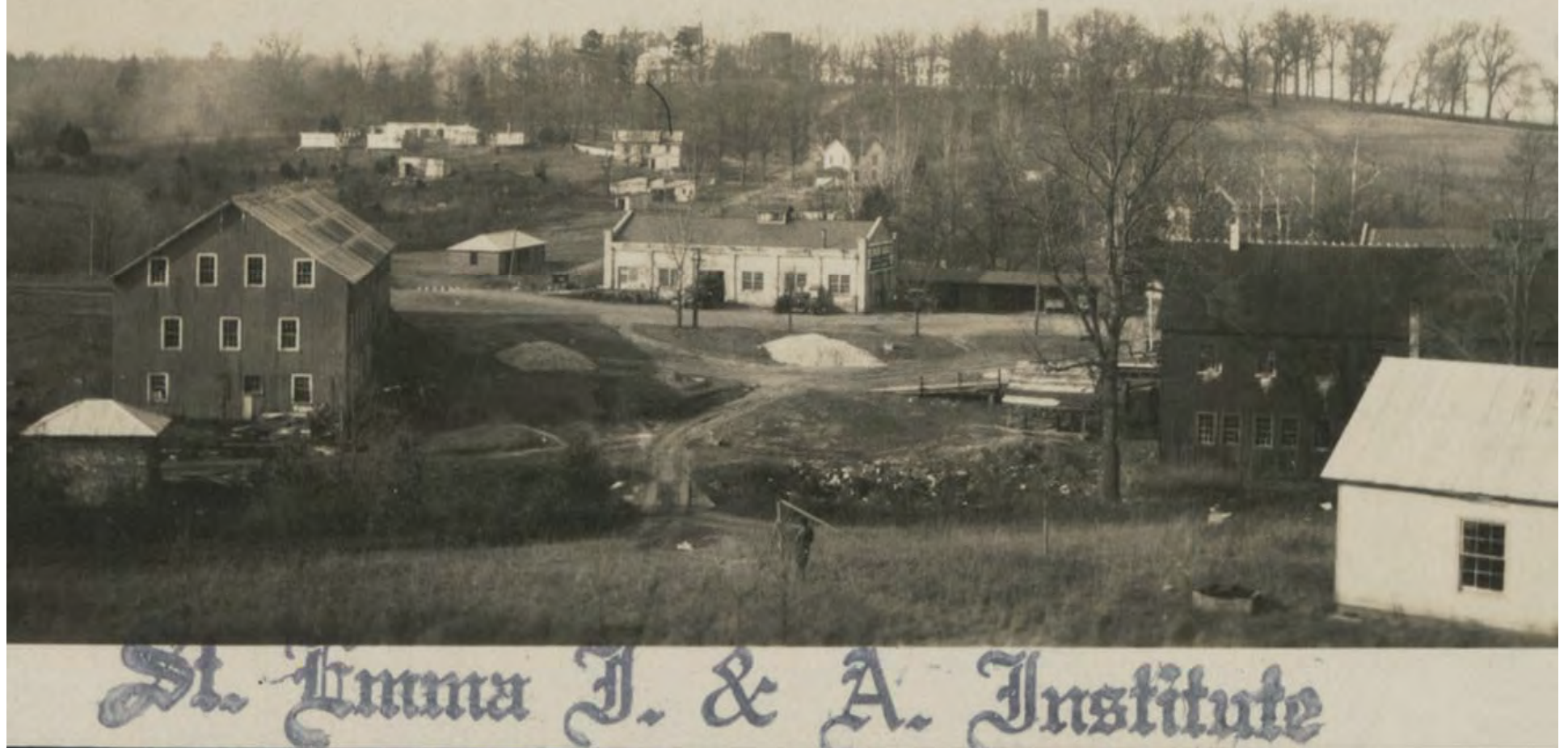
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St. Emma I. & A. Institute
Rock Castle P. O., Vir.

FEB 6 1931

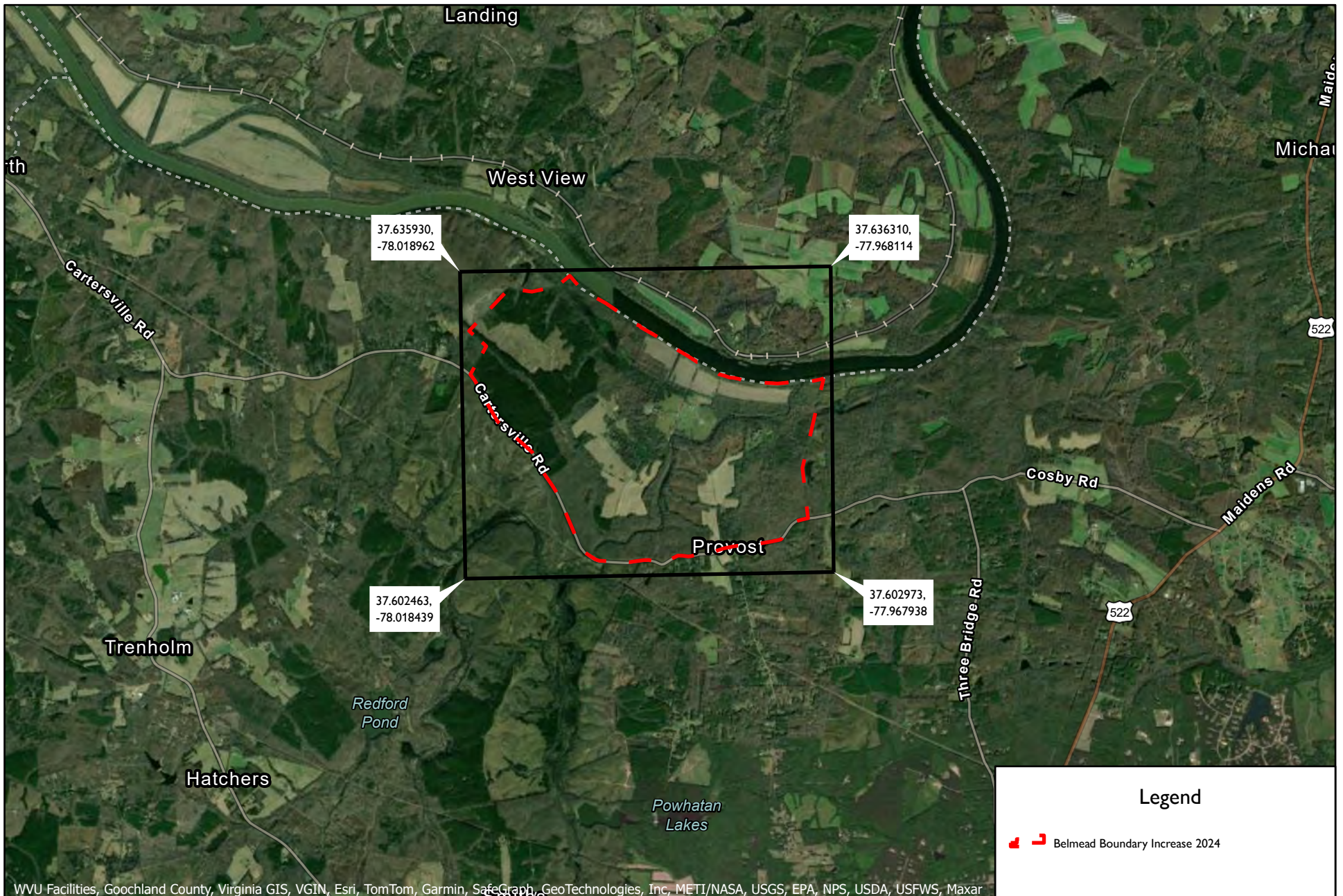
Additional Documentation, Belmead, Powhatan County, VA; DHR No. 072-0049: 1931 photos of St. Emma cadets, instructors, family members, and different places across the school's campus. Photos are in the collection of the College of William & Mary Swem Library's Special Collections Research Center.

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WVU Facilities, Goochland County, Virginia GIS, VGIN, Esri, TomTom, Garmin, SafeGraph, GeoTechnologies, Inc, METI/NASA, USGS, EPA, NPS, USDA, USFWS, Maxar

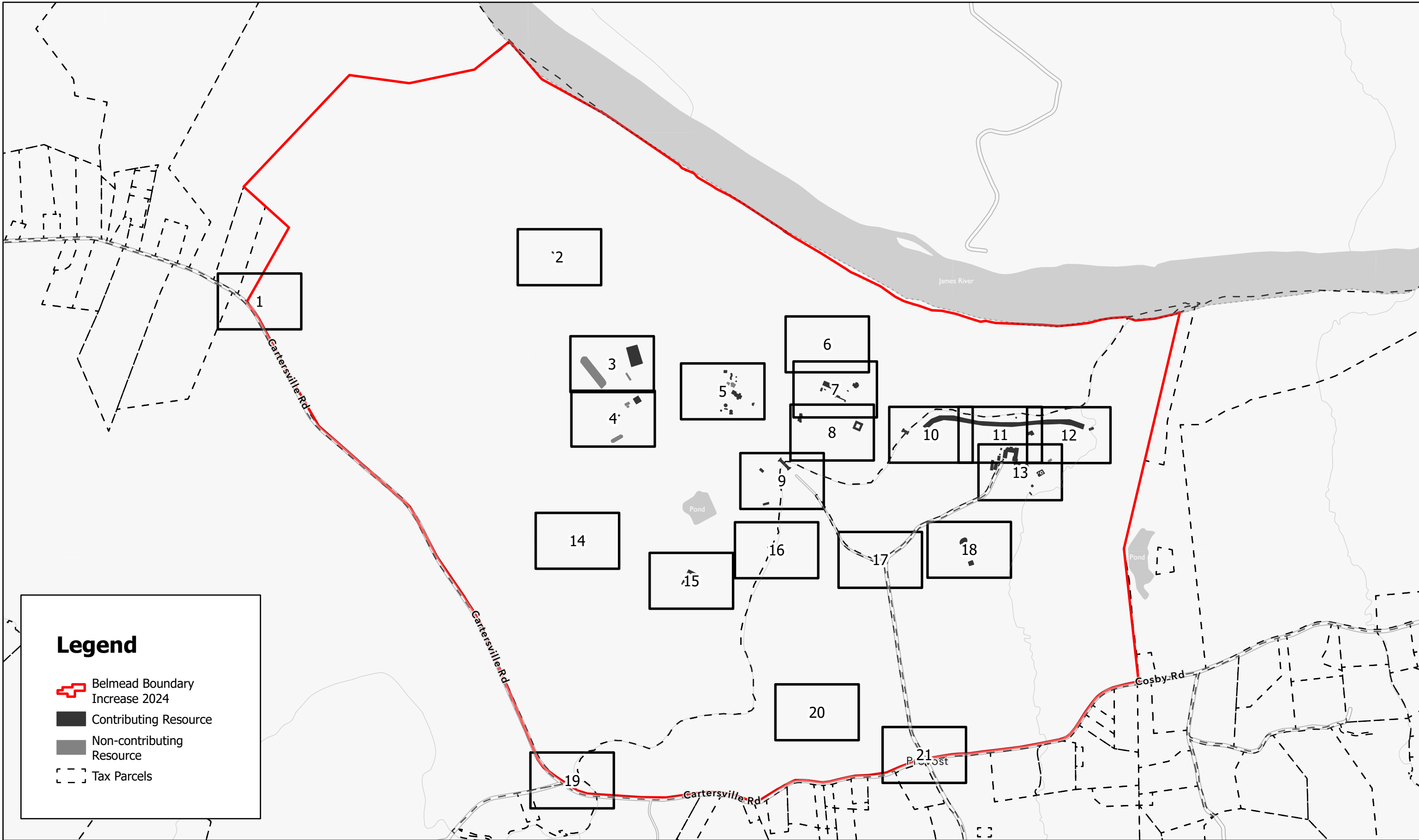
Location Map

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR #072-0049

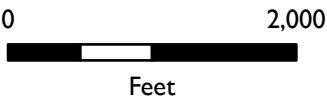
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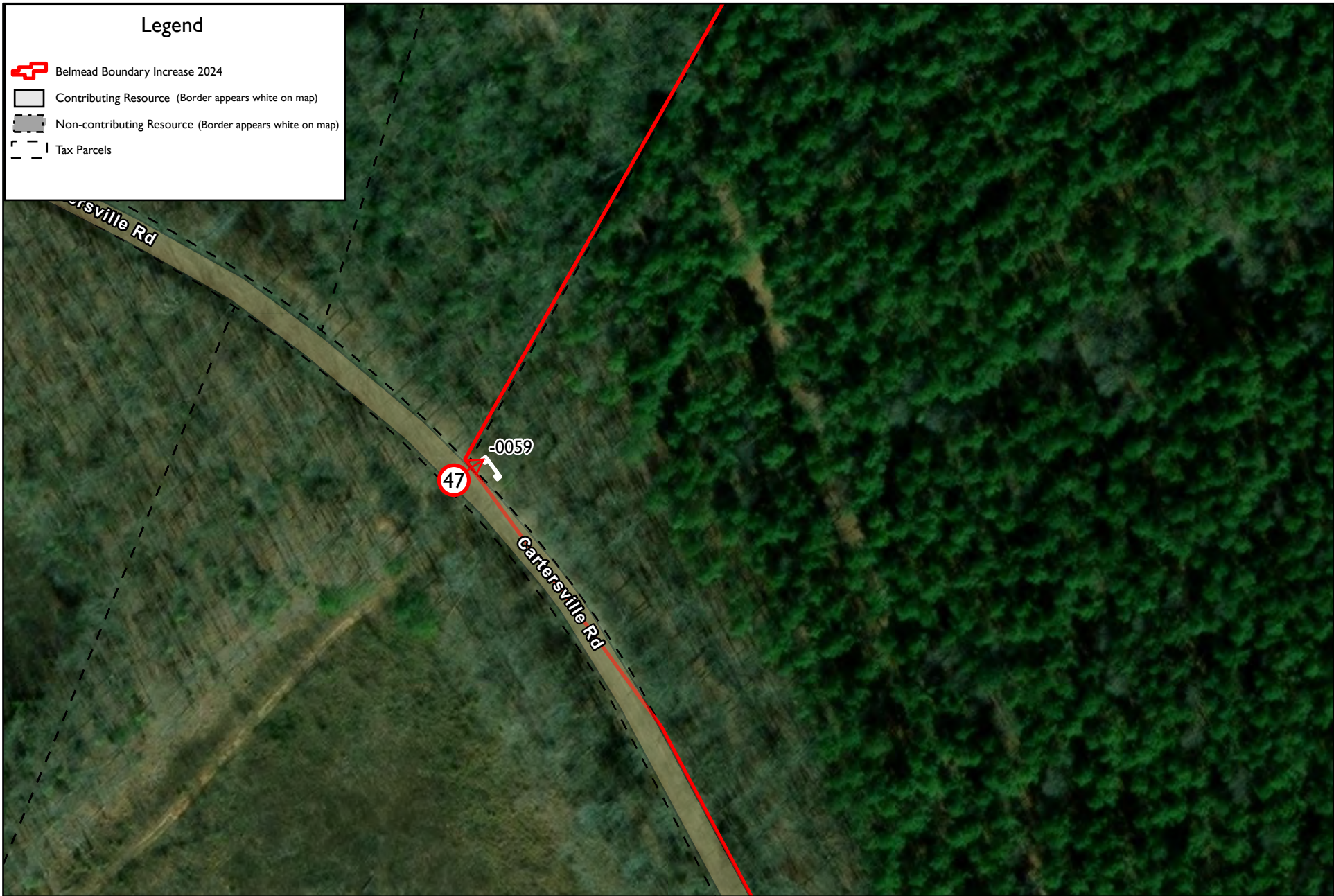




Sketch Map Overview

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 079-0049





Sketch Map 1 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.





Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet



Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels



Sketch Map 2 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.





Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet



Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels



Sketch Map 3 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.





Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet



Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels



Sketch Map 4 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.





Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet



Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels

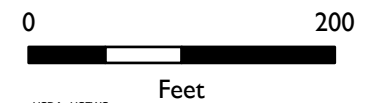


Sketch Map 5 of 21





Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049



Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels



Sketch Map 6 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.





Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet



Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels



Sketch Map 7 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024





Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet





Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels

Sketch Map 8 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet



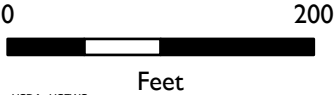


Sketch Map 9 of 21





Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049



Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels



Sketch Map 10 of 21

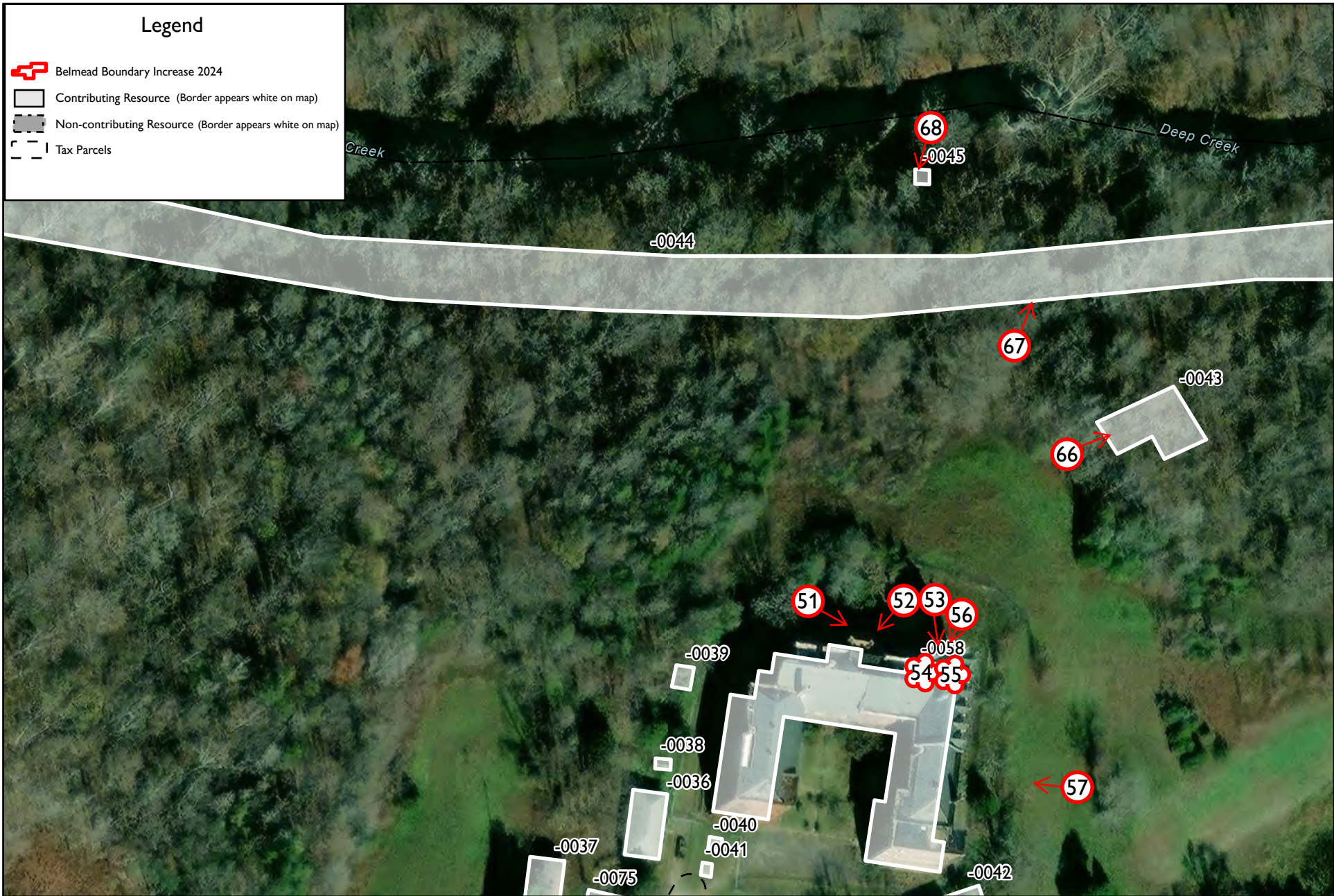
Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet



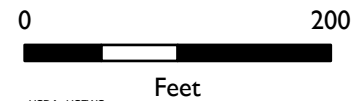


Sketch Map 11 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049



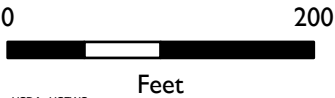


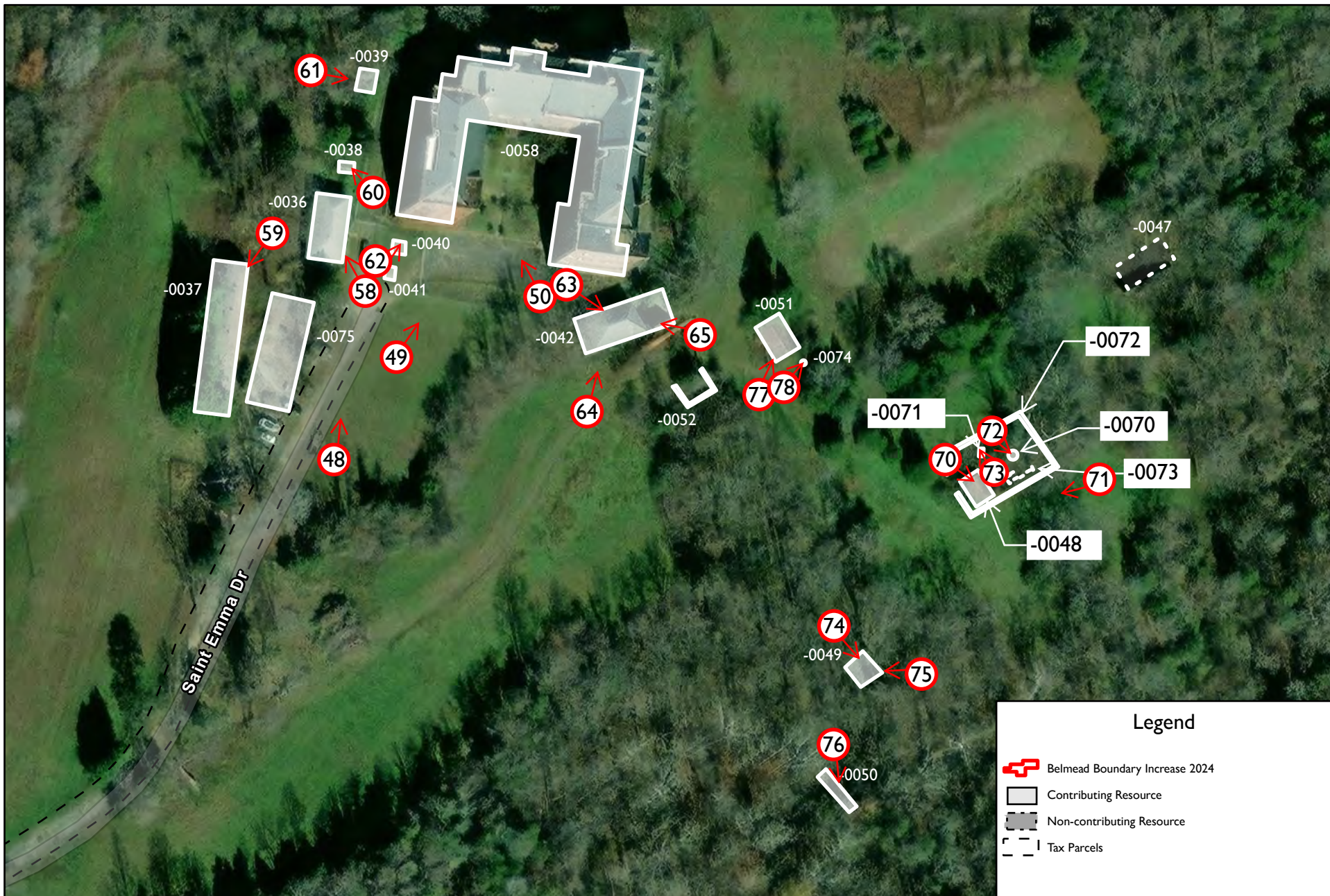
Sketch Map 12 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049



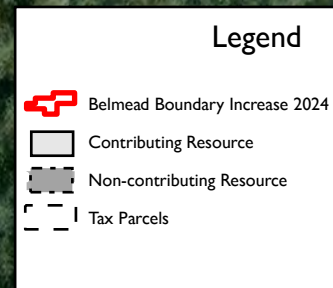
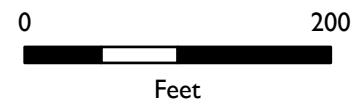


Sketch Map 13 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049





Sketch Map 14 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.





Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet



Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels



Sketch Map 15 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.





Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet



Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels



Sketch Map 16 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.





Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet



Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels



Sketch Map 17 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.





Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet



Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels



Sketch Map 18 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.





Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet



Legend

-  Belmead Boundary Increase 2024
-  Contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Non-contributing Resource (Border appears white on map)
-  Tax Parcels



Sketch Map 19 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 200
Feet





Sketch Map 20 of 21

Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 120
Feet





Sketch Map 21 of 21

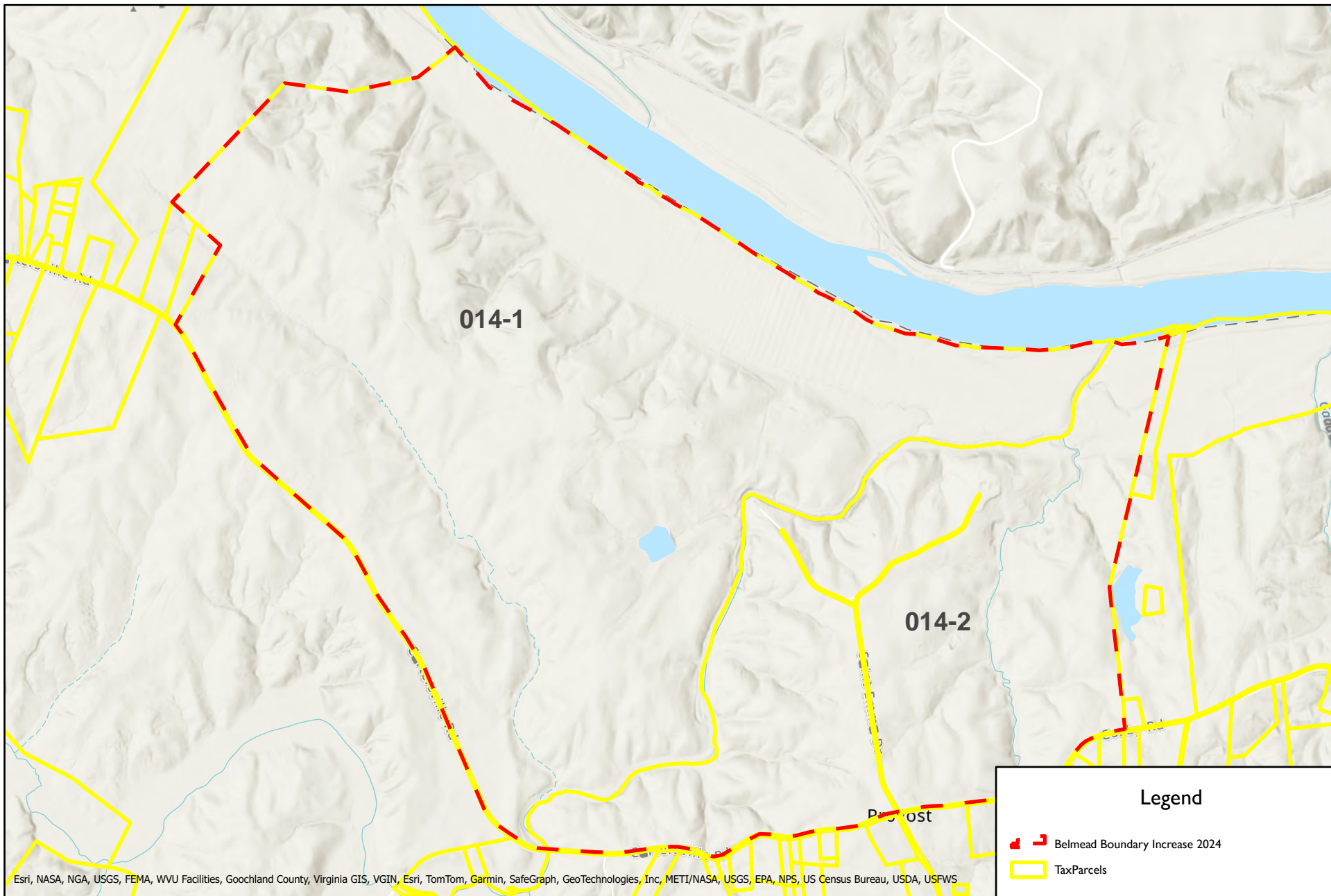
Note: Due to tree coverage, some resource footprints may not be to scale.

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia
DHR ID: 072-0049

0 120
Feet





Tax Map

Belmead Boundary Increase 2024

Powhatan, Powhatan County, Virginia

DHR ID: 072-0049

0 2,000
Feet

